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EUROPEAN PATENT SPECIFICATION

⑬ Date of publication of patent specification: **23.01.91**

⑭ Application number: **87200637.4**

⑮ Date of filing: **06.04.87**

⑯ Int. Cl.⁵: **C 08 G 63/66, C 11 D 3/37,**
C 11 D 3/395, C 11 D 3/60,
D 06 M 15/507, D 06 M 13/46

⑰ **Capped 1,2-propylene terephthalate-polyoxyethylene terephthalate polyesters useful as soil release agents.**

⑱ Priority: **15.04.86 US 852257**

⑲ Date of publication of application:
21.10.87 Bulletin 87/43

⑳ Publication of the grant of the patent:
23.01.91 Bulletin 91/04

㉑ Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH DE FR GB GR IT LI NL SE

㉒ References cited:
 EP-A-0 048 163
 EP-A-0 185 427
 EP-A-0 199 403
 DE-A-3 312 328
 FR-A-2 222 476
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 US-A-3 893 929
 US-A-4 125 370

The file contains technical information
 submitted after the application was filed and
 not included in this specification

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Description

The present application relates to capped 1,2-propylene terephthalate-polyoxyethylene terephthalate polyesters and analogous compounds useful as soil release agents in rinse-added and dryer-added fabric conditioning products and in certain laundry detergent products.

Products used in laundering operations contain a number of ingredients which provide certain basic benefits. For example, laundry cleaning products are formulated with detergent surfactant systems to remove a variety of soils from clothes during washing. These laundry products can also include ingredients which provide through-the-wash fabric conditioning benefits such as softening and anti-static performance. More typically, softening and anti-static benefits are provided by other fabric treatment products. These other fabric treatment products are added as part of the rinse cycle or else in the dryer to provide the conditioning benefit.

In addition to standard cleaning, softening and anti-static benefits, laundry detergent and fabric conditioning products can also impart other desirable properties. One is the ability to confer soil release properties to fabrics woven from polyester fibers. These fabrics are mostly co-polymers of ethylene glycol and terephthalic acid, and are sold under a number of trade names, e.g., Dacron, Fortrel, Kodel and Blue C Polyester. The hydrophobic character of polyester fabrics makes their laundering difficult, particularly as regards oily soil and oily stains. The oily soil or stain preferentially "wets" the fabric. As a result, the oily soil or stain is difficult to remove in an aqueous laundering process.

Polyesters containing random ethylene terephthalate/polyethylene glycol (PEG) terephthalate units, such as MILEASE T, have been used as soil release compounds in laundry detergent products. See for example, U.S. Patent 4,116,885 to Derstadt et al., issued September, 1978. During the laundering operation, these soil release polyesters adsorb onto the surface of fabrics immersed in the wash solution. The adsorbed polyester then forms a hydrophilic film which remains on the fabric after it is removed from the wash solution and dried. This film can be renewed by subsequent washing of the fabric with a detergent composition containing the soil release polyesters. Similar soil release polyesters have also been used in rinse-added and dryer-added fabric conditioning products. See Canadian Patent 1,100,262 to Becker et al., issued May 5, 1981 (rinse-added products containing soil release polyesters such as PERMALOSE or ZELCON); U.S. 4,238,531 to Rudy et al., issued December 9, 1980 (dryer-added products containing PERMALOSE TG soil release polyesters).

The development of new soil release agents having superior performance to these prior art polyesters is not straightforward. To be useful, the soil release agent needs to be efficiently adsorbed from the particular product matrix onto the fabric being treated. The soil release agent should also not interfere with the ability of other ingredients in the product to provide cleaning, softening and/or anti-static benefits. For liquid products, especially liquid laundry detergent products, the soil release agent needs to be sufficiently soluble or dispersible so that it can be formulated into the product. Moreover, a soil release agent which satisfies these criteria for various product usages, i.e., laundry detergent, rinse-added, dryer-added, would be highly desirable.

Background Art

A. Ethylene terephthalate/PEG terephthalate soil release polyesters used in laundry detergent compositions.

U.S. Patent 4,116,885 to Derstadt et al., issued September 26, 1978, discloses laundry detergent compositions containing 0.15 to 25% (most preferably 0.5 to 10%) of an ethylene terephthalate/PEG terephthalate soil release polyester, as MILEASE T, having an average molecular weight of 5000 to 200,000 (preferably 10,000 to 50,000). These detergent compositions further contain 5 to 95% (most preferably 10 to 25%) of certain compatible alcohol sulfate and alkylethoxy sulfate detergent surfactants and no more than 10% of other incompatible anionic surfactants such as the linear alkyl benzene sulfonates.

U.S. Patent 4,132,680 to Nicol issued January 2, 1979, also discloses laundry detergent compositions having soil release properties which contain 2 to 95% (preferably 10 to 60%) of a detergent surfactant and 0.15 to 25% (most preferably 1 to 10%) of an ethylene terephthalate/PEG terephthalate (mole ratio of 65:35 to 80:20) soil release polyester having a molecular weight of 10,000 to 50,000, e.g. MILEASE T. These compositions further comprise 0.05 to 15% (most preferably 0.1 to 5%) of a component which disassociates in aqueous solution to yield quaternary ammonium cations having one to three C_6-C_{24} alkyl groups. These cations are taught by Nicol to improve the deposition of the soil release polyester on the laundered fabric. See column 11, lines 14-21.

B. Use of polyesters in rinse-added products to impart soil release properties.

Canadian Patent 1,100,262 to Becker et al. issued May 5, 1981, discloses fabric softener compositions containing 1 to 80% (preferably 5 to 50%) of a fabric-softening agent such as ditallow dimethyl ammonium chloride in combination with 0.5 to 25% (preferably 1 to 10%) of certain choline fatty acid esters. These softening compositions preferably include 0.5 to 10% (preferably 1 to 5%) of an ethylene terephthalate/PEG terephthalate soil release polyester such as PERMALOSE or ZELCON.

U.S. Patent 3,893,929 to Basadur issued July 8, 1975, discloses rinse-added acidic solutions containing

a soil release agent made from a dibasic carboxylic (preferably terephthalic acid), a polyalkylene glycol (preferably a PEG having a molecular weight of 1,300 to 1,800) and an alkylene glycol (ethylene, propylene or butylene glycol). Preferred soil release agents have a molecular weight of from 3,000 to 5,000. Cationic fabric softeners such as ditallow dimethyl ammonium chloride can be included in these compositions, but are not preferred "since they tend to retard the deposition of the soil release agent on the polyester fibers at acidic pH." See column 7, lines 54-59.

U.S. Patent 3,712,873 to Zenk issued January 23, 1973, discloses textile treating compositions applied by spraying or padding which comprise 1 to 5% of a fatty alcohol polyethoxylate and 0.1 to 5% of a soil release polyester of the type disclosed in the Basadur patent. These compositions can additionally contain up to 4% of a quaternary ammonium compound having one C₁₆-C₂₂ alkyl group. The combination of this quaternary ammonium compound with the polyester is described as improving the soil-release characteristic of the treated fabric. Zenk also states that other quaternary ammonium compounds, such as ditallow dimethyl ammonium chloride, did not give the same superior performance. See column 3, lines 57-61.

C. Use of polyesters in dryer-added products to impart soil release properties

U.S. Patent 4,238,531 to Rudy et al. issued December 9, 1980, discloses dryer-added products which contain a "distributing agent" such as polyethylene glycol and an adjuvant applied to the fabric which can be a soil release agent. Soil release agents disclosed include polyacrylic resins, polyvinyl alcohol and PERMALOSE TG polyesters (See Example 8).

D. Use of polyesters in fabric or textile treating solutions which are heat cured to impart soil release and/or anti-static properties.

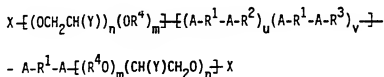
U.S. Patent 3,512,920 to Dunlap issued May 19, 1970, discloses low molecular weight alkylene glycol/polyalkylene glycol terephthalic acid polyesters which are used in resin treating baths containing starch or cellulose derivatives to impart soil release properties to cotton/polyester fabrics after heat curing. The alkylene glycols which can be used to make these polyesters include ethylene glycol, 1,2-propylene glycol, 1,3-propylene glycol, butylene glycol and mixtures thereof. The polyalkylene glycols which can be used include PEG, polybutylene glycol and mixtures thereof which have an average molecular weight of 200 to 20,000 (preferably 1,000 to 5,000).

U.S. Patent 3,416,952 to McIntyre et al. issued December 17, 1968, discloses polyester anti-static agents which can contain a water-soluble polymeric group such as a polyoxyalkylene group having an average molecular weight of from 300 to 6,000. Preferred polyoxyalkylene groups are the PEG's having an average molecular weight of from 1,000 to 4,000. Treatment is carried out by applying an aqueous dispersion of the polyester in the presence of an anti-oxidant, followed by heating to a temperature above 90°C to obtain a durable coating of the polyester on the treated article. Example 6 discloses one such polyester formed by the catalyzed reaction of dimethyl terephthalate, ethylene glycol and an O-methyl poly(oxyethylene) glycol having an average molecular weight of 350. A 20% solution of this polyester in benzyl alcohol was used to impart anti-static properties to a polyester fabric. Example 7 discloses a 20% aqueous solution of a similar polyester used to impart anti-static properties to a polyester fabric.

U.S. Patent 4,427,557 to Stockburger issued January 24, 1984, discloses low molecular weight copolyesters (2,000 to 10,000) formed by the reaction of ethylene glycol, a PEG having an average molecular weight of 200 to 1,000, an aromatic dicarboxylic acid (e.g., dimethyl terephthalate), and a sulfonated aromatic dicarboxylic acid (e.g., dimethyl 5-sulfoisophthalate). The PEG can be replaced, in part, with monoalkylethers of PEG such as the methyl, ethyl and butyl ethers. A dispersion or solution of the copolyester is applied to the textile material and then heat set at elevated temperatures (90° to 150°C) to impart durable soil release properties. See also the McIntyre et al. patent, where Example 2 discloses a random copolyester used to impart antistatic properties which is formed by reacting dimethyl terephthalate, sodium dimethyl sulfoisophthalate, ethylene glycol and a PEG having an average molecular weight of 1540.

Disclosure of the Invention

The present invention relates to compounds of formula:



wherein the A moieties are essentially



or



moieties; the R¹ moieties are essentially 1,4-phenylene moieties; the R² moieties are essentially substituted ethylene moieties having C₁—C₄ alkyl or alkoxy substituents; the R³ moieties are essentially the polyoxyethylene moiety —(CH₂CH₂O)_q—CH₂CH₂—; each R⁴ is C₃—C₄ alkylene, or the moiety —R²—A—R³—, wherein R⁵ is a C₁—C₁₂ alkylene, alkenylene, arylene or alkarylene moiety; the Y substituents of each moiety —(R⁴O)_m(CH(Y)CH₂O)_n— are H, the ether moiety —CH₂(OCH₂CH₂)_pO—X or a mixture of this ether moiety and H; each X is C₁—C₄ alkyl; m and n are numbers such that the moiety —(CH(Y)CH₂O)— comprises at least 50% by weight of the moiety —(R⁵O)_m(CH(Y)CH₂O)_n—, provided that when R⁴ is the moiety —R²—A—R³—, m is 1; each n is at least 6; p is 0 or at least 1; q is at least 9; the average value of u is from 2 to 50; the average value of v is from 1 to 20; the average value of u + v is from 3 to 70.

The compounds of the present invention are useful as soil release agents in certain laundry detergent compositions. These laundry compositions comprise:

- (a) from 5 to 75% by weight of a nonionic detergent surfactant;
- (b) from 0 to 15% by weight synthetic anionic detergent surfactants; and
- (c) a soil release component having an effective amount of the compounds of the present invention.

The compounds of the present invention are also useful as soil release agents in rinse-added, aqueous fabric softener compositions. These fabric softener compositions comprise:

- (a) from 2 to 50% by weight of a fabric softener component; and
- (b) a soil release component having an effective amount of the compounds of the present invention.

The compounds of the present invention are further useful in articles which provide fabric soil release and softening benefits when used within an automatic clothes dryer. These articles comprise:

- (a) a fabric conditioning component having a melting point above 38°C and being flowable at dryer operating temperatures and which comprises:

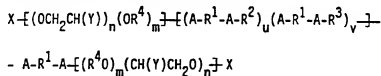
- (i) from 1 to 70% of the compounds of the present invention; and

- (ii) from 30 to 99% of a fabric softening agent selected from the group consisting of cationic fabric softener compounds, nonionic fabric softener compounds and mixtures thereof;

- (b) the fabric conditioning component being associated with a dispensing means which provides for release thereof within an automatic clothes dryer at dryer operating temperatures.

Soil Release Compounds

The compounds of the present invention have the formula:



In this formula, the moiety —(A—R¹—A—R²)_u(A—R¹—A—R³)_v—, A—R¹—A— forms the oligomer or polymer backbone of the compounds. Groups X—(OCH₂CH(Y))_n(OR⁴)_m— and —(R⁴O)_m(CH(Y)CH₂O)_n—X are generally connected at the ends of the oligomer/polymer backbone.

The linking A moieties are essentially



or



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moieties, i.e. the compounds of the present invention are polyesters. As used herein, the term "the A moieties are essentially

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or

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moieties" refers to compounds where the A moieties consist entirely of moieties

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or

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or are partially substituted with linking moieties such as

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or

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(amide), and

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or

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(urethane). The degree of partial substitution with these other linking moieties should be such that the soil release properties are not adversely affected to any great extent. Preferably, linking moieties A consist entirely of (i.e., comprise 100%) moieties

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60

or

65



i.e., each A is either

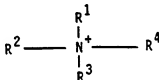


or



The R¹ moieties are essentially 1,4-phenylene moieties. As used herein, the term "the R¹ moieties are essentially 1,4-phenylene moieties" refers to compounds where the R¹ moieties consist entirely of 1,4-phenylene moieties, or are partially substituted with other arylene or alkarylene moieties, alkylenes moieties, alkenylene moieties, or mixtures thereof. Arylene and alkarylene moieties which can be partially substituted for 1,4-phenylene include 1,3-phenylene, 1,2-phenylene, 1,8-naphthylene, 1,4-naphthylene, 2,2-biphenylene, 4,4'-biphenylene and mixtures thereof. Alkylenes and alkenylene moieties which can be partially substituted include ethylene, 1,2-propylene, 1,4-butylene, 1,5-pentylene, 1,6-hexamethylene, 1,7-heptamethylene, 1,8-octamethylene, 1,4-cyclohexylene, and mixtures thereof.

These other arylene, alkarylene, alkylenes and alkenylene moieties can be unsubstituted or can have at least one —SO₂M, —COOM or —A—R'¹—A—R'²—O— $\overline{\text{M}}$ —X substituent or at least one moiety —A—R'¹—A—R'²—O— $\overline{\text{M}}$ —X cross-linked to another R¹ moiety, wherein R² is the moiety R² or R³; and w is 0 or at least 1. Preferably, these substituted R¹ moieties have only one —SO₂M, —COOM or —A—R'¹—A—R'²—O— $\overline{\text{M}}$ —X substituent. M can be H or any compatible water-soluble cation. Suitable water-soluble cations include the water-soluble alkali metals such as potassium (K⁺) and especially sodium (Na⁺), as well as ammonium (NH₄⁺). Also suitable are substituted ammonium cations having the formula:



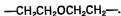
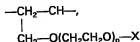
where R¹ and R² are each a C₁—C₂₀ hydrocarbyl group (e.g. alkyl, hydroxyalkyl) or together form a cyclic or heterocyclic ring of from 4 to 6 carbon atoms (e.g. piperidine, morpholine); R³ is a C₁—C₂₀ hydrocarbyl group; and R⁴ is H (ammonium) or a C₁—C₂₀ hydrocarbyl group (quat amine). Typical substituted ammonium cationic groups are those where R⁴ is H (ammonium) or C₁—C₄ alkyl, especially methyl (quat amine); R¹ is C₁—C₁₈ alkyl, especially C₁₂—C₁₄ alkyl; and R² and R³ are each C₁—C₄ alkyl, especially methyl.

The R¹ moieties having —A—R'¹—A—R'²—O— $\overline{\text{M}}$ —X substituents provide branched backbone compounds. The R¹ moieties having —A—R'¹—A—R'²—O— $\overline{\text{M}}$ —X moieties provide cross-linked backbone compounds. Indeed, syntheses used to make the branched backbone compounds typically provide at least some cross-linked backbone compounds.

For the R¹ moieties, the degree of partial substitution with moieties other than 1,4-phenylene should be such that the soil release properties of the compound are not adversely affected to any great extent. Generally, the degree of partial substitution which can be tolerated will depend upon the backbone length of the compound, i.e., longer backbones can have greater partial substitution for 1,4-phenylene moieties. Usually, compounds where the R¹ comprise from 50 to 100% 1,4-phenylene moieties (from 0 to 50% moieties other than 1,4-phenylene) have adequate soil release activity. However, because most polyesters used in fiber making comprise ethylene terephthalate units, it is usually desirable to minimize the degree of partial substitution with moieties other than 1,4-phenylene for best soil release activity. Preferably, the R¹ moieties consist entirely of (i.e., comprise 100%) 1,4-phenylene moieties, i.e. each R¹ moiety is 1,4-phenylene.

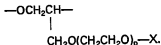
The R² moieties are essentially substituted ethylene moieties having C₁—C₄ alkyl or alkoxy substituents. As used herein, the term "the R² moieties are essentially substituted ethylene moieties having C₁—C₄ alkyl or alkoxy substituents" refers to compounds of the present invention where the R² moieties consist entirely of substituted ethylene moieties, or are partially replaced with other compatible moieties. Examples of these other moieties include linear C₂—C₆ alkylenes moieties such as ethylene, 1,3-propylene, 1,4-butylene, 1,5-pentylene or 1,6-hexamethylene, 1,2-cycloalkylene moieties such as 1,2-cyclohexylene,

1,4-cycloalkylene moieties such as 1,4-cyclohexylene and 1,4-dimethylene-cyclohexylene, polyoxyalkylated 1,2-hydroxyalkylenes such as



For the R^2 moieties, the degree of partial replacement with these other moieties should be such that the soil release and solubility properties of the compounds are not adversely affected to any great extent. Generally, the degree of partial replacement which can be tolerated will depend upon the soil release and solubility properties desired, the backbone length of the compound, (i.e., longer backbones generally can have greater partial replacement), and the type of moiety involved (e.g., greater partial substitution with ethylene moieties generally decreases solubility). Usually, compounds where the R^2 comprise from 20 to 100% substituted ethylene moieties (from 0 to 80% other compatible moieties) have adequate soil release activity. However, it is generally desirable to minimize such partial replacement for best soil release activity and solubility properties. (During the making of polyesters according to the present invention, small amounts of oxyalkylene moieties (as dialkylene glycols) can be formed from glycols in side reactions and then incorporated into the polyester). Preferably, R^2 comprises from 80 to 100% substituted ethylene moieties, and from 0 to 20% other compatible moieties. For the R^2 moieties, suitable substituted ethylene moieties include 1,2-propylene, 1,2-butylene, 3-methoxy-1,2-propylene and mixtures thereof. Preferably the R^2 moieties are essentially 1,2-propylene moieties.

The R^2 moieties are essentially the polyoxyethylene moiety $\text{---(CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O)}_q\text{---CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{---}$. As used herein, the term "the R^2 moieties are essentially the polyoxyethylene moiety $\text{---(CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O)}_q\text{---H}_2\text{CH}_2\text{---}$ " refers to compounds of the present invention in which the R^2 moieties consist entirely of this polyoxyethylene moiety, or further include other compatible moieties. Examples of these other moieties include $C_3\text{---}C_6$ oxyalkylene moieties such as oxypropylene and oxybutylene, polyoxyalkylene moieties such as polyoxypropylene and polyoxybutylene, and polyoxyalkylated 1,2-hydroxyalkylene oxides such as

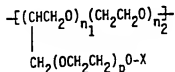


The degree of inclusion of these other moieties should be such that the soil release properties of the compounds are not adversely affected to any great extent. Usually, in compounds of the present invention, the polyoxyethylene moiety comprises from 50 to 100% of each R^2 moiety. Preferably, the polyoxyethylene moiety comprises from 90 to 100% of each R^2 moiety. (During the making of polyesters according to the present invention, very small amounts of oxyalkylene moieties may be attached to the polyoxyethylene moiety in side reactions and thus incorporated into the R^2 moieties).

For the polyoxyethylene moiety, the value for q is at least 9, and is preferably at least 12. The value for q usually ranges from 12 to 180. Typically, the value for q is in the range of from 12 to 90.

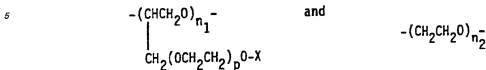
The moieties $\text{---(R}^4\text{O)}\text{---}$ and $\text{---(CH(Y)CH}_2\text{O)}\text{---}$ of the moieties $\text{---[R}^4\text{O)}_m\text{(CH(Y)CH}_2\text{O)}_n\text{]}_m\text{---}$ and $\text{---[OCH(Y)CH}_2\text{O)}_n\text{(OR}^4\text{)}_m\text{]}_m\text{---}$ can be mixed together or preferably form blocks of $\text{---(R}^4\text{O)}\text{---}$ and $\text{---(CH(Y)CH}_2\text{O)}\text{---}$ moieties. Preferably, the blocks of $\text{---(R}^4\text{O)}\text{---}$ moieties are located next to the backbone of the compound. When R^4 is the moiety $\text{---R}^2\text{---A---R}^5\text{---}$, m is 1; also, the moiety $\text{---R}^2\text{---A---R}^5\text{---}$ is preferably located next to the backbone of the compound. For R^4 , the preferred $C_3\text{---}C_4$ alkylene is C_3H_6 (propylene); when R^4 is $C_3\text{---}C_4$ alkylene, m is preferably from 0 to 10 and is most preferably 0. R^5 is preferably methylene or 1,4-phenylene. The moiety $\text{---(CH(Y)CH}_2\text{O)}\text{---}$ preferably comprises at least 75% by weight of the moiety $\text{---[R}^4\text{O)}_m\text{(CH(Y)CH}_2\text{O)}_n\text{]}_m\text{---}$ and most preferably 100% by weight (m is 0).

The Y substituents of each moiety $\text{---[R}^4\text{O)}_m\text{(CH(Y)CH}_2\text{O)}_n\text{]}_m\text{---}$ are H, the ether moiety $\text{---CH}_2\text{(OCH}_2\text{CH}_2)_p\text{O---X}$, or a mixture of this ether moiety and H; p can range from 0 to 100, but is typically 0. Typically, the Y substituents are all H. When the Y substituents are a mixture of the ether moiety and H, the moiety $\text{---(CH(Y)CH}_2\text{O)}_n\text{---}$ can be represented by the following moiety:

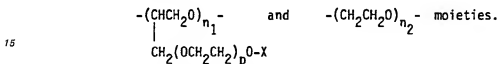


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wherein n_1 is at least 1 and the sum of $n_1 + n_2$ is the value for n . Typically, n_1 has an average value of from 1 to 10. The moieties



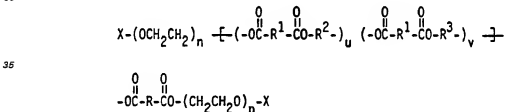
10 can be mixed together, but typically form blocks of



X can be C_1 - C_4 alkyl. X is preferably methyl or ethyl, and most preferably methyl. The value for each n is at least 6, but is preferably at least 10. The value for each n usually ranges from 12 to 113. Typically, the value for each n is in the range of from 12 to 45.

The backbone moieties $\text{-(A-R}^1\text{-A-R}^2\text{-)}$ and $\text{-(A-R}^1\text{-A-R}^3\text{-)}$ can form blocks of $\text{-(A-R}^1\text{-A-R}^2\text{-)}$ and $\text{-(A-R}^1\text{-A-R}^3\text{-)}$ moieties but are more typically randomly mixed together. For these backbone moieties, the average value of u can range from 2 to 50; the average value of v can range from 1 to 20; and the average value of $u + v$ can range from 3 to 70. The average values for u , v and $u + v$ are generally determined by the process by which the compound is made. Generally, the larger the average value for v or the smaller the average value for $u + v$, the more soluble is the compound. Typically, the average value for u is from 5 to 20; the average value for v is from 1 to 10; and the average value for $u + v$ is from 6 to 30. Generally, the ratio of u to v is at least 1 and is typically from 1 to 6.

Preferred compounds of the present invention are polyesters having the formula:



40 wherein each R^1 is a 1,4-phenylene moiety; the R^2 are essentially 1,2-propylene moieties; the R^3 are essentially the polyoxyethylene moiety $\text{-(CH}_2\text{H}_2\text{O)}_q\text{-CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{-}$; each X is ethyl or preferably methyl; each n is from 12 to 45; q is from 12 to 90; the average value of u is from 5 to 20; the average value of v is from 1 to 10; the average value of $u + v$ is from 6 to 30; the ratio u to v is from 1 to 6.

45 Method for Making Compounds

The compounds of the present invention can be prepared by art-recognized methods. Although the following synthesis description is for the preferred polyesters of the present invention, other versions can be prepared by appropriate variation.

50 The polyesters of the present invention are typically formed from: (1) 1,2-propylene glycol; (2) a polyethylene glycol (PEG) (3) a dicarboxylic acid (or preferably its diester); and (4) a PEG capped at one end with a C_1 - C_4 alkyl group (or its reaction product with a glycidyl ether). The respective amounts of these four components are selected to prepare polyesters having the desired properties in terms of solubility and soil release properties.

55 The PEG used to prepare polyesters of the present invention can be formed by ethoxylation of ethylene glycol. Also, PEGs are commercially available from Union Carbide (under the trade name Carbowax) and from Aldrich Chemical Company. These commercial PEGs have molecular weights of 600 (q = about 12), 1000 (q = about 21), 1500 (q = about 33), 3400 (q = about 76), and 4000 (q = about 90).

60 Preferably, the only dicarboxylic acid used is terephthalic acid or its diester. However, minor amounts of other aromatic dicarboxylic acids (or their diesters), or aliphatic dicarboxylic acids (or their diesters) can be included to the extent that the soil release properties are substantially maintained. Illustrative examples of other aromatic dicarboxylic acids which can be used include isophthalic acid, phthalic acid, naphthalene dicarboxylic acids, anthracene dicarboxylic acids, biphenyl dicarboxylic acids, biphenyl dicarboxylic acids, oxydibenzic acids and the like, as well as mixtures of these acids. If aliphatic dicarboxylic acids are included, adipic, glutaric, succinic, trimethyladipic, pimelic, azelaic, sebacic, suberic, 1,4-cyclohexane dicarboxylic acid and/or dodecanedioic acids can be used.

These other aromatic dicarboxylic acids can also include sulfonated aromatic dicarboxylic acids. Illustrative examples of sulfonated aromatic dicarboxylic acids which can be used to prepare polyesters of the present invention include the alkyl metal salts of benzene-2,5-dicarboxy sulfonate, 2-naphthyl-dicarboxy-benzene sulfonate, 1-naphthyl-dicarboxy-benzene sulfonate, phenyl-dicarboxy benzene sulfonate, 2,6-dimethylphenyl-3,5-dicarboxy benzene sulfonate and phenyl-3,5-dicarboxy-benzene sulfonate. The preferred sulfonated salt is 5-sulfoisophthalic acid sodium salt or its diester. If branched backbone polyesters are desired, a minor amount of a polycarboxylic acid (or its diester) selected from trimelic acid, trimellitic acid, hemimellitic acid, pyromellitic acid, and mixtures thereof can be used.

The capped PEG used to prepare the polyesters of the present invention is typically methyl capped and can be formed by ethoxylation of the respective alcohol with ethylene oxide. Also, methyl capped PEGs are commercially available from Union Carbide under the trade name Methoxy Carbowax and from Aldrich Chemical Company under the name poly(ethylene glycol) methyl ether. These commercial methyl capped PEGs have molecular weights of 350 ($n = \text{about } 7.5$), 550 ($n = \text{about } 12$), 750 ($n = \text{about } 16$), 2000 ($n = \text{about } 45$), and 5000 ($n = \text{about } 113$).

If desired, the capped PEG, or more typically its alkali metal (Na^+ or K^+) alkoxide, can be reacted with a glycidyl ether to form a capped PEG having portions which are branched. See Flöre-Gallardo et al., "Epoxy Ethers and Ether Amino Alcohols", *J. Org. Chem.*, Vol. 12, (1947), pp 831—33, which describes a method for preparing glycidyl ethers useful in the present invention. A representative synthesis of one such capped PEG is as follows:

Step 1: 1-methoxy-2-hydroxy-3-chloropropane

Into a 2-l., three-necked, round bottom flask, fitted with a condenser, addition funnel, and magnetic stirrer were placed 730 ml (18 moles) of methanol and 16.0 ml (0.25 moles) of methanesulfonic acid. To this refluxing mixture was added dropwise 496 ml (6.0 moles) of epichlorohydrin. The reaction mixture was stirred and refluxed for 18 hrs. After cooling to room temperature, 37.3 g (0.27 moles) of K_2CO_3 was added to the reaction mixture which was then stirred for 2 hrs. The filtrate was distilled at atmospheric pressure to remove methanol, then at reduced pressure ($50^\circ\text{--}55^\circ\text{C}$) to obtain 268 g (36% yield) of product.

The NMR spectrum of the product included the expected absence of epoxide resonances and the addition of a methoxy resonance. The remaining two methylene, methine, and alcohol resonances were as expected for 1-methoxy-2-hydroxy-3-chloropropane.

Step 2: 1,2-epoxy-3-methoxypropane

Into a 2-l., three-necked, round bottom flask, fitted with a condenser, and mechanical stirrer were placed 200.2 g (1.6 moles) of the 1-methoxy-2-hydroxy-3-chloropropane from Step 1 and 1.6 l. of diethyl ether. The flask was immersed in an ice-water bath, and 96.0 g (2.4 moles) of NaOH was then added in small portions over a 2.5 hr. period to the vigorously stirred reaction mixture. The reaction mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature and was stirred overnight. The ether phase was then washed with H_2O (2×100 ml). The combined aqueous extracts were washed once with 200 ml of diethyl ether. The combined diethyl ether extracts were dried with Na_2SO_4 . The dried extracts were distilled at atmospheric pressure to remove diethyl ether, then under reduced pressure (35°C) to obtain 93.5 g (67% yield) of product.

The NMR spectrum of the product included the expected epoxide, methoxy and methylene resonances for 1,2-epoxy-3-methoxypropane.

Step 3: Reaction of 1,2-epoxy-3-methoxypropane and poly(ethylene glycol) methyl ether

Into a 250 ml, three-necked, round bottom flask, fitted with a condenser, addition funnel, and magnetic stirrer were placed 175.0 g (0.5 moles) of poly(ethylene glycol) methyl ether (M.W. 350), and 1.1 g (0.05 moles) of NaH . The mixture was stirred vigorously and heated to 80°C under an argon atmosphere for 15 minutes. Then 88.4 g of the 1,2-epoxy-3-methoxypropane from Step 2 was added dropwise over a 6 hr. period. This reaction mixture was heated at 90°C for 30 hrs. During this time, an additional 4.0 g (0.2 moles) of NaH was added periodically in small portions to maintain a pH of 10—11. (It is believed that some of the alkoxide generated by the NaH was consumed by a small amount of residual chlorosubstituted materials in the 1,2-epoxy-3-methoxypropane).

The reaction mixture was monitored by $^1\text{H-NMR}$ and was considered complete following the absence of epoxide resonances. After 30 hours, the reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature and 10.2 g (0.2 moles) of acetic acid was then added to neutralize the mixture. The reaction mixture was stirred for 15 min., then excess acetic acid was removed on a Kugelrohr reciprocating evaporator at 100°C for 5.5 hrs. This resulted in 255.1 g. (97% yield) of product.

The NMR spectrum of the product included the expected resonances for the methoxy and ethoxylate groups, and the absence of epoxide resonances.

The preferred method for preparing polyesters of the present invention comprises reacting the desired mixture of lower dialkyl esters (methyl, ethyl, propyl or butyl) of the dicarboxylic acid with a mixture of the 1,2-propylene glycol, the PEG and the capped PEG. The glycol esters and oligomers produced in this ester interchange reaction are then polymerized to the desired degree. The ester interchange reaction can be conducted in accordance with reaction conditions generally used for ester interchange reactions. This ester

interchange reaction is usually conducted at temperatures of from 120° to 220°C in the presence of an esterification catalyst. Alcohol is formed and constantly removed thus forcing the reaction to completion. The temperature and pressure of the reaction are desirably controlled so that glycol does not distill from the reaction mixture. Higher temperatures can be used if the reaction is conducted under pressure.

The catalysts used for the ester interchange reaction are those well known to the art. These catalysts include alkyl and alkaline earth metals, for example lithium, sodium, calcium, and magnesium, as well as transition and Group II B metals, for example antimony, manganese, cobalt, and zinc, usually as the respective oxides, carbonates, or acetates. Typically, antimony trioxide and calcium acetate are used.

The extent of the ester interchange reaction can be monitored by the amount of alcohol liberated or the disappearance of the dialkyl esters of the dibasic acids in the reaction mixture as determined by high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) or any other suitable method. The ester interchange reaction is desirably taken to more than 90% completion. Greater than 95% completion is preferred in order to decrease the amount of sublimates obtained in the polymerization step.

If desired, stabilizers such as phosphorus and phosphoric acid and esters thereof can be added at the end of the ester interchange step. The purpose of the stabilizer is to inhibit degradation, oxidation, and other side reactions; to destroy the catalytic activity of the ester interchange catalyst; and to prevent precipitation of insoluble metal carboxylates. Typically, stabilizers are not used to make the polyesters of the present invention.

When the ester interchange reaction is complete, the glycol ester products are then polymerized to produce polyesters. The desired degree of polymerization can be determined by HPLC and ¹³C-NMR analysis. For commercial processes, the polymerization reaction is usually conducted at temperatures of from about 200° to about 250°C in the presence of a catalyst. Higher temperatures can be used but tend to produce darker colored products. Illustrative examples of catalysts useful for the polymerization step include antimony trioxide, germanium dioxide, titanium alkoxide, hydrated antimony pentoxide, and ester interchange catalysts such as the salts of zinc, cobalt, and manganese.

Excess glycol and other volatiles liberated during the reaction are removed under vacuum. The reaction is continued until polymerization is nearly complete based on analysis by ¹³C-NMR and/or reverse phase HPLC and/or gel phase permeation. In addition to the desired polyesters, the crude composition obtained after synthesis contained starting reactants, as well as intermediate products.

Representative examples of specific polyesters formed according to the present invention are as follows:

Example 1

Into a 1000 ml, three-necked, round bottom flask, fitted with a magnetic stirrer, and a modified claisen head (to support a condenser and receiver flask) were placed 66.5 g. (0.877 moles) of 1,2-propylene glycol and 2.5 g (0.5% w/w) of Sb₂O₃ catalyst. This mixture was heated to 150°C for 1 hr. to predissolve the catalyst and then cooled to room temperature. Then 125.7 g (0.162 moles) of poly(ethylene glycol) methyl ether (M.W. 750), 133.7 g. (0.689 moles) of dimethyl terephthalate, 166.5 g. of PEG (M.W. 1000), and 0.5 g (0.1% w/w) of butylated hydroxytoluene were added. Under argon, the reaction mixture was heated to 175°C for 22 hrs. The temperature was then raised to 200°C for an additional 10.5 hr. period. During this time, 41.3 g. (94% of theoretical value) of methanol was distilled from the reaction mixture. The reaction mixture was then cooled for 0.5 hrs. The reaction mixture was placed on a Kugelrohr reciprocating evaporator, raised to a temperature of 200°C over a 1 hr. period and then held at 200°C for 4 hrs. The reaction was determined to be complete by H-NMR.

Example 2

Under reaction conditions similar to Example 1, a polyester is prepared from 30.0 g. (0.016 moles) of a poly(ethylene glycol) methyl ether of M.W. 1900, 23.3 g. (0.12 moles) of dimethyl terephthalate, 64.0 g. (0.016 moles) of a PEG of M.W. 4000, and 14.6 g. (0.192 moles) of 1,2-propylene glycol.

Example 3

Under reactions similar to Example 1, a polyester is prepared from 30.0 g. (0.016 moles) of a poly(ethylene glycol) methyl ether of M.W. 1900, 25.6 g. (0.132 moles) of dimethyl terephthalate, 60.0 g. (0.04 moles) of a PEG of M.W. 1500, and 12.8 g. (0.168 moles) of 1,2-propylene glycol.

Example 4

Under reaction conditions similar to Example 1, a polyester is prepared from 30.0 g. (0.086 moles) of a poly(ethylene glycol) methyl ether of M.W. 350, 68.9 g. (0.355 moles) of dimethyl terephthalate, 51.6 (0.086 moles) of a PEG of M.W. 600, and 34.4 g. (0.452 moles) of 1,2-propylene glycol.

LAUNDRY DETERGENT COMPOSITIONS

A. Soil Release Component

The compounds of the present invention are particularly useful in certain laundry detergent compositions to provide soil release properties. These compositions can be used as laundry detergents, laundry additives, and laundry pre-treatments.

The laundry detergent compositions of the present invention comprise a soil release component which contains an effective amount of the soil release compounds previously defined. What is an "effective amount" will depend upon the particular soil release compounds used, the particular type of detergent formulation (liquid, granular, etc.) and the benefits desired. Usually, the soil release compounds are effective when included in an amount from 0.01 to 10% by weight of the composition. In terms of soil release benefits, preferred laundry detergent compositions can comprise from 0.1 to 5% by weight of the soil release compounds, but typically comprise from 0.3 to 3% by weight of these compounds.

For granular detergent formulations, the soil release component typically comprises the soil release compounds, plus any protective enrobing material. In making granular detergent formulations, the soil release compounds could be exposed to highly alkaline materials such as NaOH and KOH. The soil release compounds, in particular those having shorter backbones, can be degraded by alkaline environments, especially those above a pH of about 8.5. Accordingly, the soil release compounds are preferably enrobed in a material which protects them from the alkaline environment of a granular detergent formulation yet permits the soil release compounds to be dispersed in the laundering operation.

Suitable enrobing materials include the nonionic surfactants, polyethylene glycols (PEG), fatty acids, fatty acid esters of alcohols, diols and polyols, anionic surfactants, film forming polymers and mixtures of these materials. Examples of suitable nonionic surfactant enrobing materials are described in the Detergent Surfactant section of this application. Examples of suitable PEG enrobing materials are those having an average M.W. of from about 2,000 to 15,000, preferably from about 3,000 to about 10,000 and most preferably from about 4,000 to about 8,000. Examples of suitable fatty acid enrobing materials are the higher fatty acids having from 12 to 18 carbon atoms. Examples of suitable fatty acid ester enrobing materials include the sorbitan fatty acid esters (e.g. sorbitan monolaurate). Other examples of suitable enrobing materials, including anionic surfactants and film forming polymers, are disclosed in U.S. Patent 4,485,327 to Murphy et al., issued December 4, 1984. The soil release compounds can be enrobed according to the methods disclosed in this Murphy et al. patent.

For liquid detergent formulations, the soil release component can be comprised entirely of soil release compounds or can further include a water-soluble organic solvent or an hydrotrope to aid in dissolving the soil release compounds. Suitable organic solvents are usually aromatic and can include ethyl benzoate, phenoxy-ethanol, methyl-o-toluate, 2-methoxybenzyl alcohol and pyrrolidone. Suitable hydrotropes include the methyl capped PEGs and shorter backbone polyesters. These short backbone polyesters are more water-soluble, and, accordingly, can function as hydrotropes for the longer backbone, less water-insoluble polyesters.

The amount, or even need for, organic solvents or hydrotropes to prepare liquid detergent formulations containing the soil release compounds of the present invention will depend upon the compounds used, especially what fraction thereof is water-soluble, the ingredients present in the laundry detergent system, and whether an isotropic, homogeneous liquid is desired. For isotropic liquid detergent formulations, the soil release compounds need to be dissolved as much as possible which sometimes requires the use of organic solvents or hydrotropes. Also, it is believed that dissolving the compounds in liquid detergent formulations makes them more effective as soil release agents.

B. Laundry Detergent Surfactant System

Laundry compositions of the present invention comprise from 5 to 75% by weight nonionic detergent surfactant. Preferably, the nonionic detergent surfactant comprises from 10 to 40% by weight of the composition, and most preferably from 15 to 30% by weight.

Suitable nonionic surfactants for use in laundry compositions of the present invention are generally disclosed in U.S. Patent 3,929,678 to Laughlin et al., issued December 30, 1975 at column 13, line 14 through column 16, line 6. Classes of nonionic surfactants included are:

1. The polyethylene oxide condensates of alkyl phenols. These compounds include the condensation products of alkyl phenols having an alkyl group containing from about 6 to 12 carbon atoms in either a straight chain or branched chain configuration with ethylene oxide, the ethylene oxide being present in an amount equal to 5 to 25 moles of ethylene oxide per mole of alkyl phenol. The alkyl substituent in such compounds can be derived, for example, from polymerized propylene and diisobutylene. Examples of compounds of this type include nonyl phenol condensed with about 9.5 moles of ethylene oxide per mole of nonyl phenol; dodecylphenol condensed with about 12 moles of ethylene oxide per mole of phenol; dinonyl phenol condensed with about 15 moles of ethylene oxide per mole of phenol; and diisooctyl phenol condensed with about 15 moles of ethylene oxide per mole of phenol. Commercially available nonionic surfactants of this type include Igepal CO-630, marketed by the GAF Corporation, and Triton X-45, X-114, X-100, and X-102, all marketed by the Rohm & Haas Company.

2. The condensation products of aliphatic alcohols with from 1 to 25 moles of ethylene oxide. The alkyl chain of the aliphatic alcohol can either be straight or branched, primary or secondary, and generally contains from 8 to 22 carbon atoms. Examples of such ethoxylated alcohols include the condensation product of myristyl alcohol condensed with about 10 moles of ethylene oxide per mole of alcohol; and the condensation product of about 9 moles of ethylene oxide with coconut alcohol (a mixture of fatty alcohols with alkyl chains varying in length from 10 to 14 carbon atoms). Examples of commercially available nonionic surfactants of this type include Tergitol 15-S-9, marketed by Union Carbide Corporation, Neodol

45-9, Neodol 23-6.5, Neodol 45-7, and Neodol 45-4, marketed by Shell Chemical Company, and Kyro EOB, marketed by The Procter & Gamble Company.

3. The condensation products of ethylene oxide with a hydrophobic base formed by the condensation of propylene oxide with propylene glycol. The hydrophobic portion of these compounds has a molecular weight of from about 1500 to 1800 and exhibits water insolubility. The addition of polyoxyethylene moieties to this hydrophobic portion tends to increase the water solubility of the molecule as a whole, and the liquid character of the product is retained up to the point where the polyoxyethylene content is about 50% of the total weight of the condensation product, which corresponds to condensation with up to about 40 moles of ethylene oxide. Examples of compounds of this type include certain of the commercially available Pluronic surfactants, marketed by Wyandotte Chemical Corporation.

4. The condensation products of ethylene oxide with the product resulting from the reaction of propylene oxide and ethylenediamine. The hydrophobic moiety of these products consists of the reaction product of ethylenediamine and excess propylene oxide, the moiety having a molecular weight of from about 2500 to about 3000. This hydrophobic moiety is condensed with ethylene oxide to the extent that the condensation product contains from about 40% to about 80% by weight of polyoxyethylene and has a molecular weight of from about 5,000 to about 11,000. Examples of this type of nonionic surfactant include certain of the commercially available Tetricon compounds, marketed by Wyandotte Chemical Corporation.

5. Semi-polar nonionic detergent surfactants which include water-soluble amine oxides containing one alkyl moiety of from about 10 to 18 carbon atoms and 2 moieties selected from the group consisting of alkyl groups and hydroxyalkyl groups containing from 1 to about 3 carbon atoms; water-soluble phosphine oxides containing one alkyl moiety of from about 10 to 18 carbon atoms and 2 moieties selected from the group consisting of alkyl groups and hydroxyalkyl groups containing from about 1 to 3 carbon atoms; and water-soluble sulfoxides containing one alkyl moiety of from about 10 to 18 carbon atoms and a moiety selected from the group consisting of alkyl and hydroxyalkyl moieties of from 1 to 3 carbon atoms.

Preferred semi-polar nonionic detergent surfactants are the amine oxide detergent surfactants having the formula



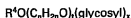
wherein R¹ is an alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, or alkyl phenyl group or mixtures thereof containing from about 8 to about 22 carbon atoms; R² is an alkylene or hydroxyalkylene group containing from 2 to 3 carbon atoms or mixtures thereof; x is from 0 to 3; and each R³ is an alkyl or hydroxyalkyl group containing from 1 to 3 carbon atoms or a polyethylene oxide group containing from one to 3 ethylene oxide groups. The R³ groups can be attached to each other, e.g., through an oxygen or nitrogen atom to form a ring structure.

Preferred amine oxide detergent surfactants are C₁₀-C₁₈ alkyl dimethyl amine oxide and C₈-C₁₂ alkoxy ethyl dihydroxy ethyl amine oxide.

6. Alkylpolysaccharides disclosed in European Patent Application 70,074 to Ramon A. Llenado, published January 19, 1983, having a hydrophobic group containing from 6 to 30 carbon atoms, preferably from 10 to 16 carbon atoms and a polysaccharide, e.g., a polyglycoside, hydrophilic group containing from about 1½ to about 10, preferably from about 1½ to about 3, most preferably from about 1.6 to about 2.7 saccharide units. Any reducing saccharide containing 5 or 6 carbon atoms can be used, e.g. glucose, galactose and galactosyl moieties can be substituted for the glucosyl moieties. (Optionally the hydrophobic group is attached at the 2, 3, 4, etc. positions thus giving a glucose or galactose as opposed to a glucoside or galactoside.) The intersaccharide bonds can be, e.g., between the one position of the additional saccharide units and the 2-, 3-, 4-, and/or 6 positions on the preceding saccharide units.

Optionally, and less desirably, there can be a polyalkyleneoxide chain joining the hydrophobic moiety and the polysaccharide moiety. The preferred alkyleneoxide is ethylene oxide. Typical hydrophobic groups include alkyl groups, either saturated or unsaturated, branched or unbranched containing from about 8 to about 18, preferably from about 10 to about 16, carbon atoms. Preferably, the alkyl group is a straight chain saturated alkyl group. The alkyl group can contain up to 3 hydroxy groups and/or the polyalkyleneoxide chain can contain up to 10, preferably less than 5, most preferably 0, alkyleneoxide moieties. Suitable alkyl polysaccharides are octyl, nonyldecyl, undecyldodecyl, tridecyl, tetradecyl, pentadecyl, hexadecyl, heptadecyl, and octadecyl, di-, tri-, tetra-, penta-, and hexaglucoisides, galactosides, lactosides, glucoses, fructosides, fructoses, and/or galactoses. Suitable mixtures include coconut alkyl, di-, tri-, tetra-, and pentaglucoisides and tallow alkyl tetra-, penta-, and hexaglucoisides.

The preferred alkylpolyglycosides have the formula



wherein R⁴ is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkylphenyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylphenyl, and mixtures thereof in which the alkyl groups contain from about 10 to about 18, preferably from about 12

to about 14, carbon atoms; n is 2 or 3, preferably 2; t is from 0 to about 10, preferably 0; and x is from 1 to about 10, preferably from about 1 to about 3, most preferably from about 1.6 to about 2.7. The glycosyl is preferably derived from glucose. To prepare these compounds, the alcohol or alkyl-polyethoxy alcohol is formed first and then reacted with glucose, or a source of glucose, to form the glucoside (attachment at the 1-position). The additional glycosyl units can then be attached between their 1-position and the preceding glycosyl units 2-, 3-, 4- and/or 6-position, preferably predominantly the 2-position.

7. Fatty acid amide detergent surfactants having the formula:



wherein R⁵ is an alkyl group containing from about 7 to about 21 (preferably from about 9 to about 17) carbon atoms and each R⁶ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₁-C₄ hydroxyalkyl, and -(C₂H₄O)_xH where x varies from about 1 to about 3.

15 Preferred amides are C₈-C₂₀ ammonia amides, monoethanolamides, diethanolamides, and isopropanol amides.

Preferred nonionic detergent surfactants for use in laundry compositions of the present invention are the ethoxylated alcohols and alkylphenols of formula:



wherein R⁷ is a C₁₀-C₁₈ alkyl or a C₈-C₁₂ alkyl phenyl group; a is from about 3 to about 9; and the hydrophilic-lipophile balance (HLB) is from about 10 to about 13. Particularly preferred are condensation products of C₁₂-C₁₄ alcohols with from about 3 to about 7 moles of ethylene oxide per mole of alcohol, e.g., C₁₂-C₁₃ alcohol condensed with about 6.5 moles of ethylene oxide per mole of alcohol.

Laundry compositions of the present invention also comprise from 0 to 15% by weight (preferably from 0 to 10% by weight) synthetic anionic detergent surfactants. These synthetic anionic detergent surfactants include the water-soluble salts, typically the alkali metal, ammonium and alkylammonium salts, of organic sulfuric reaction products having in their molecular structure an alkyl group containing from about 10 to about 20 carbon atoms and a sulfonic acid or sulfuric acid ester group. (Included in the term "alkyl" is the alkyl portion of acyl groups.)

Examples of this group of synthetic anionic surfactants are the sodium and potassium alkyl sulfates, especially those obtained by sulfating the higher alcohols (C₈-C₁₈ carbon atoms) such as those produced by reducing the glycerides of tallow or coconut oil; and the sodium and potassium alkylbenzene sulfonates in which the alkyl group contains from about 9 to about 15 carbon atoms, in straight chain or branched chain configuration, e.g., those of the type described in U.S. Patents 2,220,099 and 2,477,383. Especially valuable are linear straight chain alkylbenzene sulfonates in which the average number of carbon atoms in the alkyl group is from about 11 to 13, abbreviated as C₁₁-C₁₃LAS.

Synthetic anionic surfactants of this type also include the alkyl polyethoxylate sulfates, particularly those in which the alkyl group contains from about 10 to about 22, preferably from about 12 to about 18 carbon atoms, and wherein the polyethoxylate chain contains from about 1 to about 15 ethoxylate moieties preferably from about 1 to about 3 ethoxylate moieties.

Other synthetic anionic surfactants of this type include sodium alkyl glyceryl ether sulfonates, especially those ethers of higher alcohols derived from tallow and coconut oil; sodium coconut oil fatty acid monoglyceride sulfonates and sulfates; sodium or potassium salts of alkyl phenol ethylene oxide ether sulfates containing from about 1 to about 10 units of ethylene oxide per molecule and wherein the alkyl groups contain from about 8 to about 12 carbon atoms; and sodium or potassium salts of alkyl ethylene oxide ether sulfates containing about 1 to about 10 units of ethylene oxide per molecule and wherein the alkyl group contains from about 10 to about 20 carbon atoms.

Other synthetic anionic surfactants also included are water-soluble salts of esters of alpha-sulfonated fatty acids containing from about 6 to 20 carbon atoms in the fatty acid group and from about 1 to 10 carbon atoms in the ester group; water-soluble salts of 2-acyloxy-alkane-1-sulfonic acids containing from about 2 to 9 carbon atoms in the acyl group and from about 9 to about 23 carbon atoms in the alkane moiety; alkyl ether sulfates containing from about 10 to 20 carbon atoms in the alkyl group and from about 1 to 30 moles of ethylene oxide; water-soluble salts of olefin sulfonates containing from about 12 to 24 carbon atoms; and beta-alkoxy alkane sulfonates containing from about 1 to 3 carbon atoms in the alkyl group and from about 8 to 20 carbon atoms in the alkane moiety.

The laundry compositions of the present invention can also include ampholytic, zwitterionic and cationic detergent surfactants, as well as alkali metal soaps.

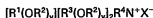
Ampholytic surfactants can be broadly described as aliphatic derivatives of secondary or tertiary amines, or aliphatic derivatives of heterocyclic secondary and tertiary amines in which the aliphatic radical can be straight chain or branched and wherein one of the aliphatic substituents contains from about 8 to 18 carbon atoms and at least one contains an anionic water-solubilizing group, e.g. carboxy, sulfonate, sulfate.

See U.S. Patent 3,929,678 to Laughlin et al., issued December 30, 1975 at column 19, lines 18-35 for

examples of amphotolytic surfactants.

- 5 Zwitterionic surfactants can be broadly described as derivatives of secondary and tertiary amines, derivatives of heterocyclic secondary and tertiary amines, or derivatives of quaternary ammonium, quaternary phosphonium or tertiary sulfonium compounds. See U.S. Patent 3,929,678 to Laughlin et al., issued December 30, 1975 at column 19, line 38 through column 22, line 48 for examples of zwitterionic surfactants.

Suitable cationic surfactants include the quaternary ammonium surfactants having the formula:



- 10 wherein R¹ is an alkyl or alkyl benzyl group having from about 8 to about 18 carbon atoms in the alkyl chain; each R² is selected from the group consisting of —CH₂CH₂—, —CH₂CH(CH₃)—, —CH₂CH(CH₂OH)—, —CH₂CH₂CH₂—, and mixtures thereof; each R³ is selected from the group consisting of C₁—C₄ alkyl, C₁—C₄ hydroxyalkyl, benzyl, ring structures formed by joining the two R³ groups, —CH₂CHOHCHOHCOH—CHOHCH₂OH wherein R³ is any hexose or hexose polymer having a molecular weight less than about 1000, and hydrogen when y is not 0; R⁴ is the same as R³ or is an alkyl chain wherein the total number of carbon atoms of R¹ plus R⁴ is not more than about 18; each y is from 0 to about 10 and the sum of the y values is from 0 to about 15; and X is any compatible anion.

- 20 Preferred of the above are the alkyl quaternary ammonium surfactants, especially the mono-long chain alkyl surfactants described in the above formula when R⁴ is selected from the same groups as R³. The most preferred quaternary ammonium surfactants are the chloride, bromide and methylsulfate C₈—C₁₈ alkyl trimethylammonium salts, C₈—C₁₆ alkyl di(hydroxyethyl)methylammonium salts, the C₈—C₁₆ alkyl hydroxyethylidimethylammonium salts, and C₈—C₁₆ alkyloxypropyl trimethylammonium salts. Of the above, decyl trimethylammonium methylsulfate, lauryl trimethylammonium chloride, myristyl trimethylammonium bromide and coconut trimethylammonium chloride and methylsulfate are particularly preferred.

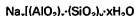
Other useful cationic surfactants are disclosed in U.S. Patent 4,259,217 to Murphy, issued March 31, 1981.

- 30 The alkali metal soaps which are useful include the sodium, potassium, ammonium and alkylolammonium salts of higher fatty acids containing from about 8 to about 24 carbon atoms, preferably from about 10 to about 20 carbon atoms.

C. Detergent Builders

- 35 Laundry detergent compositions of the present invention can optionally comprise inorganic or organic detergent builders to assist in mineral hardness control. When included, these builders typically comprise up to about 80% by weight of the composition. Built liquid formulations preferably comprise from about 1 to about 25% by weight detergent builder, most preferably from about 3 to about 20% by weight, while built granular formulations preferably comprise from about 5 to about 50% by weight detergent builder, most preferably from about 10 to about 30% by weight.

40 Suitable detergent builders include crystalline aluminosilicate ion exchange materials having the formula:



- 45 wherein z and y are at least about 6, the mole ratio of z to y is from about 1.0 to about 0.5; and x is from about 10 to about 264. Amorphous hydrated aluminosilicate materials useful herein have the empirical formula



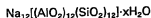
- 50 wherein M is sodium, potassium, ammonium or substituted ammonium, z is from about 0.5 to about 2; and y is 1; this material having a magnesium ion exchange capacity of at least about 50 milligram equivalents of CaCO₃ hardness per gram of anhydrous aluminosilicate.

- The aluminosilicate ion exchange builder materials are in hydrated form and contain from about 10% to about 28% of water by weight if crystalline, and potentially even higher amounts of water if amorphous. 55 Highly preferred crystalline aluminosilicate ion exchange materials contain from about 18% to about 22% water in their crystal matrix. The preferred crystalline aluminosilicate ion exchange materials are further characterized by a particle size diameter of from about 0.1 micrometer to about 10 micrometer. Amorphous materials are often smaller, e.g., down to less than about 0.01 micrometer. More preferred ion exchange materials have a particle size diameter of from about 0.2 micrometer to about 4 micrometer. The term "particle size diameter" represents the average particle size diameter of a given ion exchange material as determined by conventional analytical techniques such as, for example, microscopic determination utilizing a scanning electron microscope. The crystalline aluminosilicate ion exchange materials are usually further characterized by their calcium ion exchange capacity, which is at least about 200 mg. equivalent of CaCO₃ water hardness/g. of aluminosilicate, calculated on an anhydrous basis, and which generally is in the range of from about 300 mg. eq./g. to about 352 mg. eq./g. The aluminosilicate ion exchange materials 65

are still further characterized by their calcium ion exchange rate which is at least 0.07 grains Ca²⁺/l/min/gram/l (about 2 grains Ca²⁺/gallon/minute/gram/gallon) of aluminosilicate (anhydrous basis), and generally lies within the range of from about 0.07 to 0.21 grains Ca²⁺/l/min/g/l (2 grains/gallon/minute/gram/gallon) to about 6 grains/gallon/minute/gram/gallon), based on calcium ion hardness. Optimum aluminosilicates for builder purposes exhibit a calcium ion exchange rate of at least about 0.14 grains Ca²⁺/l/min/g/l (4 grains/gallon/minute/gram/gallon).

The amorphous aluminosilicate ion exchange materials usually have a Mg²⁺ exchange capacity of at least about 50 mg. eq. CaCO₃/g. (12 mg. Mg²⁺/g.) and a Mg²⁺ exchange rate of at least about 1 grain/gallon/minute/gram/gallon. Amorphous materials do not exhibit an observable diffraction pattern when examined by Cu radiation (1.54×10^{-10} M).

Useful aluminosilicate ion exchange materials are commercially available. These aluminosilicates can be crystalline or amorphous in structure and can be naturally-occurring aluminosilicates or synthetically derived. A method for producing aluminosilicate ion exchange materials is disclosed in U.S. Patent 3,985,669 to Krummel, et al., issued October 12, 1976. Preferred synthetic crystalline aluminosilicate ion exchange materials useful herein are available under the designations Zeolite A, Zeolite P (B), and Zeolite X. In an especially preferred embodiment, the crystalline aluminosilicate ion exchange material has the formula



wherein x is from about 20 to about 30, especially about 27.

Other examples of detergency builders include the various water-soluble, alkali metal, ammonium or substituted ammonium phosphates, polyphosphates, phosphonates, polyphosphonates, carbonates, silicates, borates, polyhydroxysulfonates, polyacetates, carboxylates, and polycarboxylates. Preferred are the alkali metal, especially sodium, salts of the above.

Specific examples of inorganic phosphate builders are sodium and potassium tripolyphosphate, pyrophosphate, polymeric metaphosphate having a degree of polymerization of from about 6 to 21, and orthophosphate. Examples of polyphosphonate builders are the sodium and potassium salts of ethylene-1,1-diphosphonic acid, the sodium and potassium salts of ethane 1-hydroxy-1,1-diphosphonic acid and the sodium and potassium salts of ethane, 1,1,2-triphosphonic acid. Other phosphorus builder compounds are disclosed in U.S. Patents 3,159,581; 3,213,030; 3,422,021; 3,422,137; 3,400,176 and 3,400,148.

Examples of nonphosphorus, inorganic builders are sodium and potassium carbonate, bicarbonate, sesquicarbonate, tetraborate decahydrate, and silicate having a mole ratio of SiO₂ to alkali metal oxide of from about 0.5 to about 4.0, preferably from about 1.0 to about 2.4.

Useful water-soluble, nonphosphorus organic builders include the various alkali metal, ammonium and substituted ammonium polyacetates, carboxylates, polycarboxylates and polyhydroxysulfonates. Examples of polyacetate and polycarboxylate builders are the sodium, potassium, lithium, ammonium and substituted ammonium salts of ethylenediamine tetraacetic acid, nitrilotriacetic acid, oxydisuccinic acid, mellitic acid, benzene polycarboxylic acids, citric acid, and 2-hydroxyethyl ethylenediamine triacetic acid.

Highly preferred polycarboxylate builders are disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 3,308,067 to Diehl, issued March 7, 1967. Such materials include the water-soluble salts of homo- and copolymers of aliphatic carboxylic acids such as maleic acid, itaconic acid, mesaconic acid, fumaric acid, aconitic acid, citraconic acid and methylenemalonamic acid.

Other builders include the carboxylated carbohydrates disclosed in U.S. Patent 3,723,322 to Diehl issued March 26, 1973.

Other useful builders are sodium and potassium carboxymethyloxymalonate, carboxymethyloxysuccinate, cis-cyclohexanetetraacetic acid, cis-cyclopentanetetraacetic acid, phloroglucinol trisulfonate, water-soluble polyacrylates (having molecular weights of from about 2,000 to about 200,000 for example), and the copolymers of maleic anhydride with vinyl methyl ether or ethylene.

Other suitable polycarboxylates are the polyacetal carboxylates disclosed in U.S. Patent 4,144,226, to Crutchfield et al., issued March 13, 1979, and U.S. Patent 4,246,495, to Crutchfield et al., issued March 27, 1979. These polyacetal carboxylates can be prepared by bringing together under polymerization conditions an ester of glyoxylic acid and a polymerization initiator. The resulting polyacetal carboxylate ester is then attached to chemically stable end groups to stabilize the polyacetal carboxylate against rapid depolymerization in alkaline solution, converted to the corresponding salt, and added to a surfactant.

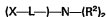
D. Clay Soil Removal/Anti-Redeposition Agents

Laundry detergent compositions of the present invention desirably include a clay soil removal and/or anti-redeposition agent. These clay soil removal/anti-redeposition agents are usually included at from about 0.1 to about 10% by weight of the composition. In terms of the benefits achieved, preferred laundry compositions can comprise from about 0.5 to about 5% by weight of these agents. Typically, these preferred compositions comprise from about 1 to about 3% by weight of these agents.

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One group of preferred clay soil removal/anti-redeposition agents are the ethoxylated amines disclosed in European patent application 112,593 to James M. Vander Meer, published July 4, 1984. These ethoxylated amines are selected from the group consisting of:

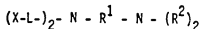
(1) ethoxylated monoamines having the formula:



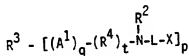
(2) ethoxylated diamines having the formula:



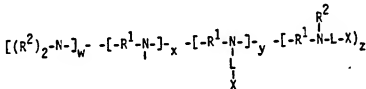
or



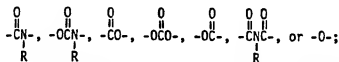
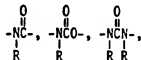
(3) ethoxylated polyamines having the formula:



(4) ethoxylated amine polymers having the general formula:



and (5) mixtures thereof; wherein A¹ is



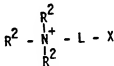
R is H or C₁-C₄ alkyl or hydroxyalkyl; R¹ is C₂-C₁₂ alkylene, hydroxyalkylene, alkenylene, arylene or alkylene, or a C₂-C₃ oxyalkylene moiety having from 2 to about 20 oxyalkylene units provided that no O-N bonds are formed; each R² is C₁-C₄ alkyl or hydroxyalkyl, the moiety -L-X, or two R² together form the moiety -(CH₂)_r-A²-(CH₂)_s-, wherein A² is -O- or -CH₂-, r is 1 or 2, s is 1 or 2, and r + s is 3 or 4; X is a nonionic group, an anionic group or mixture thereof; R³ is a substituted C₃-C₁₂ alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkenyl, aryl, or alkaryl group having p substitution sites; R⁴ is C₁-C₁₂ alkylene, hydroxyalkylene, alkenylene, arylene or alkylene, or a C₂-C₃ oxyalkylene moiety having from 2 to about 20 oxyalkylene units provided that no O-O or O-N bonds are formed; L is a hydrophilic chain which contains the polyoxyalkylene moiety -(R⁵O)_m-(CH₂CH₂O)_n-, wherein R⁵ is C₃-C₄ alkylene or hydroxyalkylene and m and n are numbers such that the moiety -(CH₂CH₂O)- comprises at least about 50% by weight of said polyoxyalkylene moiety; for said monoamines, m is from 0 to about 4, and n is at least about 12; for said diamines, m is from 0 to about 3, and n is at least about 6 when R¹ is C₂-C₃ alkylene, hydroxyalkylene, or alkenylene, and at least about 3 when R¹ is other than C₂-C₃ alkylene, hydroxyalkylene or alkenylene; for said polyamines and amine polymers, m is from 0 to about 10 and n is at least about 3; p is from 3 to 8; q is 1 or 0; t is 1 or 0, provided that t is 1 when q is 1; w is 1 or 0; x + y + z is at least 2; and y + z is at least 2.

Another group of preferred clay soil removal/anti-redeposition agents are the cationic compounds

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disclosed in European patent application 111,965 to Young S. Oh and Eugene P. Gosselink, published June 27, 1984. These cationic compounds are selected from the group consisting of:

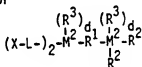
(1) ethoxylated cationic monoamines having the formula:



(2) ethoxylated cationic diamines having the formula:

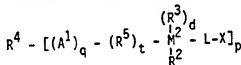


or



wherein M¹ is an N⁺ or N group; each M² is an N⁺ or N group, and at least one M² is an N⁺ group;

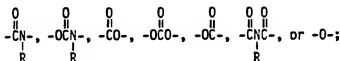
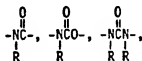
(3) ethoxylated cationic polyamines having the formula:



(4) ethoxylated cationic polymers which comprise a polymer backbone, at least 2 M groups and at least one L—X group, wherein M is a cationic group attached to or integral with the backbone and contains an N⁺ positively charged center; and L connects groups M and X or connects group X to the polymer backbone; and

(5) mixtures thereof;

wherein A¹ is



R is H or C₁—C₄ alkyl or hydroxyalkyl, R¹ is C₂—C₁₂ alkylene, hydroxyalkylene, alkenylene, arylene or alkarylene, or a C₂—C₃ oxyalkylene moiety having from 2 to about 20 oxyalkylene units provided that no O—N bonds are formed; each R² is C₁—C₄ alkyl or hydroxyalkyl, the moiety —L—X or two R² together form the moiety —(CH₂)_r—A²—(CH₂)_s—, wherein R² is —O— or —CH₂—, r is 1 or 2, s is 1 or 2 and r + s is 3 or 4; each R³ is C₁—C₆ alkyl or hydroxyalkyl, benzyl, the moiety —L—X, or two R³ or one R² and one R³ together form the moiety —(CH₂)_r—A²—(CH₂)_s—; R⁴ is a substituted C₃—C₁₂ alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkenyl, aryl or alkaryl group having p substitution sites; R⁵ is C₁—C₁₂ alkylene, hydroxyalkylene, alkenylene, arylene or alkarylene, or a C₂—C₃ oxyalkylene moiety having from 2 to about 20 oxyalkylene units provided that no O—O or O—N bonds are formed; X is a nonionic group selected from the group consisting of H, C₁—C₄ alkyl or hydroxyalkyl ester or ether groups, and mixtures thereof; L is a hydrophilic chain which contains the polyoxyalkylene moiety —(R⁶O)_m(CH₂CH₂O)_n—; wherein R⁶ is C₃—C₄ alkylene or hydroxyalkylene and m and n are numbers such that the moiety —(CH₂CH₂O)— comprises at least about 50% by weight of said polyoxyalkylene moiety; d is 1 when M² is N⁺ and is 0 when M² is N; n is at least about 12 for said cationic

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monoamines, is at least about 6 for said cationic diamines and is at least about 3 for said cationic polyamines and cationic polymers; p is from 3 to 8; q is 1 or 0; and t is 1 or 0, provided that t is 1 when q is 1.

Other clay soil removal/anti-redeposition agents which can be used include the ethoxylated amine polymers disclosed in European patent application 111,984 to Eugene P. Gosselink, published June 27, 1984; the zwitterionic compounds disclosed in European patent application 111,976 to Donn N. Rubingh and Eugene P. Gosselink, published June 27, 1984; the zwitterionic polymers disclosed in European patent application 112,592 to Eugene P. Gosselink, published July 4, 1984; and the amine oxides disclosed in U.S. Patent 4,548,744 to Connor, issued October 22, 1985.

E. Other Optional Detergent Ingredients

Other optional ingredients which can be included in laundry detergent compositions of the present invention, in their conventional art-established levels for use (i.e., from 0 to about 20%), include solvents, bleaching agents, bleach activators, other soil-suspending agents, corrosion inhibitors, dyes, fillers, optical brighteners, germicides, pH adjusting agents (monoethanolamine, sodium carbonate, sodium hydroxide, etc.), enzymes, enzyme-stabilizing agents, perfumes, fabric softening components and static control agents.

F. General Detergent Formulations

Except for the previously described enrobing of the soil release compound, granular formulations embodying the laundry detergent compositions of the present invention can be formed by conventional techniques, i.e., by slurrying the individual components in water and then atomizing and spray-drying the resultant mixture, or by pan or drum granulation of the ingredients. Granular formulations preferably comprise from about 10 to about 30% detergent surfactant, and most preferably about 15 to about 25% surfactant. See also U.S. Patent 4,569,772 to Ciallella, issued February 11, 1986 and U.S. Patent 4,571,303 to Ciallella, issued February 18, 1986, for methods of making built granular formulations containing nonionic detergent surfactants.

Liquid formulations embodying the laundry detergent compositions can be built or unbuilt. If unbuilt, these compositions conventionally contain approximately 15 to 50% (preferably 20 to 35%) total surfactant, from 0 to 5% (preferably from 0 to 2%) of an organic base such as a mono-, di-, or tri-alkanol amine, a neutralization system such as an alkali metal hydroxide and a lower primary alcohol such as ethanol or isopropanol, and approximately 20 to 80% water.

Built liquid laundry detergent compositions can be in the form of single phase liquids provided that the builder is solubilized in the mixture at its level of use. Such liquids conventionally contain 10 to 40% (preferably 15 to 25%) total surfactant, 1 to 25% (preferably 3 to 20%) builder which can be organic or inorganic, up to 10% of a hydrotrope system, and 20 to 80% water. Built liquid detergents incorporating components that form heterogeneous mixtures (or levels of builder that cannot be completely dissolved) can also comprise detergent compositions of the present invention. Such liquids conventionally employ viscosity modifiers to produce systems having plastic shear characteristics to maintain stable dispersions and to prevent phase separation or solid settlement. Care should also be taken to avoid exposing the soil release compounds to highly alkaline environments, e.g. those above a pH of about 8.5, during processing of the liquid detergent formulation.

While the laundry detergent compositions of the present invention are operative within a wide range of wash pHs, they are particularly suitable when formulated to provide a near neutral wash pH, i.e. an initial pH of from about 6.0 to about 8.5 at concentration of from about 0.1 to about 2% by weight in water at 20°C. Near neutral wash pH formulations are better for enzyme stability and for preventing stains from setting. The near neutral pH of such formulations is also desirable to insure long-term activity for the soil release compounds, especially those having shorter backbones. In such formulations, the product pH is preferably from about 6.5 to about 8.5, and more preferably from 7.0 to 8.0.

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G. Specific Embodiments of Laundry Detergent Compositions According to the Present Invention Embodiment I

A liquid detergent composition is formulated from the following ingredients:

	Ingredient	Wt. %
5	Polyester of Examples 1, 2, 3 or 4	1.0
	PEA ₁₈₉ E ₁₇ *	1.5
10	Sodium C ₁₂ alkylethoxy (1) sulfate	9.4
	C ₁₂ —C ₁₃ alcohol polyethoxylate (6.5)	21.5
15	Ethanol	7.3
	Sodium diethylenetriamine pentaacetate	0.2
	MAXATASE	0.026 Anson units/g
20	TERMAMYL	0.51 KNu/g
	Sodium formate	1.6
25	Calcium formate	0.1
	Minors and water	Balance to 100

* Polyethylenamine having M.W. of 189 and degree of ethoxylation of 17 at each reactive hydrogen.
The components are added together with continuous mixing to form the composition.

Embodiment II

A granular detergent composition is prepared from the following ingredients:

	Ingredient	Wt. %
35	Polyester of Examples 1, 2, 3 or 4*	5.0
	C ₁₂ —C ₁₃ alcohol polyethoxylate (6.5)	20.0
40	Magnesium sulfate	1.0
	Zeolite 4A, hydrate	26.0
45	Sodium carbonate	18.3
	Sodium bicarbonate	15.7
	Bentolite L (fabric softening clay)	3.0
50	Fluorescent brightener	1.7
	Maxase MP (proteolytic enzyme)	1.5
55	Dye	0.1
	Water	Balance to 100

* Enrobed in PEG having an average M.W. 8,000.

The above components are formulated together according to Example 1 of U.S. Patent 4,569,772, but with substitution of the enrobed polyester particles of the present invention in place of the stabilized PET-POET polymer of said patent.

LIQUID FABRIC SOFTENER COMPOSITIONS

A. Soil Release Component

The compounds of the present invention are also useful in aqueous fabric softener compositions to provide fabric softening and soil release properties when added during the rinse cycle.

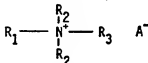
The fabric softener compositions of the present invention comprise a soil release component which contains an effective amount of the soil release compounds previously defined. What is an "effective amount" will depend upon the particular soil release compounds used, the particular type of fabric softener formulation and the benefits desired. Usually, the soil release compounds are effective when included in an amount from 0.01 to 10% by weight of the composition. In terms of soil release benefits, preferred fabric softener compositions can comprise from 0.1 to 5% by weight of the soil release compounds, but typically comprise from 0.3 to 3% by weight of these compounds.

B. Fabric Softener Component

The fabric softener compositions of the present invention further comprise from 2 to 50% (preferably from 3 to 25%) by weight fabric softener component. For regular strength (1X) fabric softener compositions, the fabric softener component typically comprises from 3 to 10% by weight of the composition. For concentrated (e.g., 3X) fabric softener compositions, the fabric softener component typically comprises from 15 to 25% by weight of the composition.

This fabric softener component typically comprises a mono- or di(higher alkyl) quaternary ammonium salt or mixtures of such salts. See U.S. Patent 3,928,213 to Temple et al., issued December 23, 1975, especially column 2, line 57 to column 4, line 34, and U.S. Patent 4,399,045 to Burns, issued August 16, 1983, especially column 4, line 23 to column 7, line 2, which disclose suitable quaternary ammonium salts. By "higher alkyl" as used in the context of the quaternary ammonium salts herein is meant alkyl groups having from 8 to 30 carbon atoms, preferably from 12 to 22 carbon atoms. Examples of such conventional quaternary ammonium salts include:

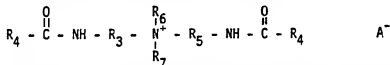
1. Mononitrogen quaternary ammonium salts having the formula:



wherein R_1 is an aliphatic C_{12} — C_{22} hydrocarbon group; R_2 is a C_1 — C_4 saturated alkyl or hydroxyalkyl group, R_3 is chosen from R_1 and R_2 and A is an anion such as chloride, bromide or methylsulfate.

Examples of suitable mononitrogen quaternary ammonium salts are tallow trimethyl ammonium chloride, ditallow dimethyl ammonium chloride, ditallow dimethyl ammonium methylsulfate, di(hydrogenated tallow) dimethyl ammonium chloride, dibehenyl dimethyl ammonium chloride, dihexadecyl dimethyl ammonium chloride, doctadecyl dimethyl ammonium chloride, dielcosyl dimethyl ammonium chloride, didocosyl dimethyl ammonium chloride; di(hydrogenated tallow) dimethyl ammonium methyl sulfate; dihexadecyl diethyl ammonium chloride; ditallow dipropyl ammonium chloride; di(coconutalkyl) dimethyl ammonium chloride; and mixtures thereof;

2. Diamide quaternary ammonium salts having the formula:



wherein R_4 is an aliphatic C_{12} — C_{22} hydrocarbon group; R_5 is a divalent alkylene group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms; R_6 is a C_1 — C_4 saturated alkyl or hydroxyalkyl group; R_7 is R_6 or the moiety $(C_6H_{12}O)_nH$, wherein n is 2 or 3 and b is from 1 to 5; and A is an anion.

Examples of suitable diamide quaternary ammonium salts are methylbis(tallowamidoethyl)(2-hydroxyethyl)ammonium methylsulfate, methylbis(hydrogenated tallowamidoethyl)(2-hydroxyethyl)ammonium methylsulfate, and bis(2-hydrogenated tallowamidoethyl)ethoxylated ammonium methyl sulfate; wherein R_4 is an aliphatic C_{12} — C_{17} hydrocarbon group; R_5 is an ethylene group; R_6 is a methyl group, R_7 is a hydroxyalkyl or ethoxylate group and A is a methylsulfate anion; these materials are available from Sherex Chemical Company under the trade names Varisoft® 222, Varisoft® 220, and Varisoft® 110;

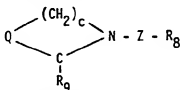
3. Quaternary imidazolinium salts such as 1-methyl-1-tallowamido-ethyl-2-tallowimidazolinium methylsulfate (sold under the trade name Varisoft® 475), 1-methyl-1-(hydrogenated tallowamidoethyl)-methylsulfate (sold under the trade name Varisoft® 445®), 1-ethylene-bis(2-tallow-1-methyl-imidazolinium methylsulfate) (sold under the trade name Varisoft® 6112), and 1-methyl-2-tallow-3[tallowamidoethyl(tallowamino)ethylene]-imidazolinium methylsulfate (sold under the trade name Varisoft® 3012).

For concentrated fabric softener compositions, a preferred fabric softener component comprises: (A) from about 2 to about 15% by weight mononitrogen quaternary ammonium salts; (B) from 0 to about 14%

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by weight diamide quaternary ammonium salts; (C) from about 2 to about 13% by weight quaternary imidazolium salts; the total amount of salts A, B and C being from about 15 to about 22.5% by weight. See U.S. Patent 4,399,045 to Burns, issued August 16, 1983.

The fabric softener component can also comprise certain di(higher alkyl) cyclic amines, typically as a mixture with a quaternary ammonium salt(s). These cyclic amines have the formula:



wherein c is 2 or 3, preferably 2; R_8 and R_9 are, independently, a C_6 – C_{30} alkyl or alkenyl group, preferably C_{11} – C_{22} alkyl, more preferably C_{15} – C_{18} alkyl, or mixtures of such alkyl radicals, such as those obtained from coconut oil, "soft" (non-hardened) tallow, and hardened tallow; Q is CH or N, preferably N; Z is



wherein T is O or NR_{11} , R_{11} being H or C_1 – C_4 alkyl, preferably H; and R_{10} is a divalent C_1 – C_3 alkylene or $(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{O})_d$ group, wherein d is a number of from 1 to 8, or Z is R_{10} .

Specific examples of such amines are as follows:

- 1-tallowamidoethyl-2-tallowimidazoline
- 1-(2- C_{14} – C_{18} -alkyl-amidoethyl)-2- C_{13} – C_{17} -alkyl-4,5-dihydro-imidazoline
- 1-stearylamidopropyl-2-stearylimidazoline
- 1-tallowamidobutyl-2-tallowpiperidine
- 2-coconutamidomethyl-2-laurylpyrimidine

These amines and methods for the preparation are fully described British Application 8508130, filed March 28, 1985 by Koenig and De Buzzacarin.

C. Optional Ingredients

1. Acids and Bases

When cyclic amines are present in the fabric softener component, the pH of the fabric softener composition is important for proper dispersion of the amines. Moreover, a moderately acidic pH is important for hydrolytic stability of the soil release compounds of the present invention. Therefore, acids and/or bases can be added to the composition to adjust its pH. The amount of acid or base should be such that the pH of the dispersion, after mixing, is in the range from about 3 to about 6.5.

Examples of suitable acids include the inorganic mineral acids, carboxylic acids, in particular the low molecular weight (C_1 – C_6) carboxylic acids, and alkylsulfonic acids.

Suitable inorganic acids include HCl, H_2SO_4 , HNO_3 and H_3PO_4 . Suitable organic acids include formic, acetic, methanesulfonic and ethanesulfonic acid. Preferred acids are hydrochloric, phosphoric, formic and methane sulfonic acid.

Suitable bases include NaOH and Na_2CO_3 .

2. Organic Solvent

The fabric softener compositions of the present invention can be formulated without the use of any organic solvent. However, the presence of organic solvents (for example, low molecular weight, water miscible aliphatic alcohols), does not harm the storage stability, the viscosity, or the softening performance of the compositions. Examples of such solvents include ethanol and isopropanol.

Typically, the quaternary ammonium salt(s) (or cyclic amine) will be obtained from a supplier of bulk chemicals in solid form or as a solution in an organic solvent, e.g., isopropanol. There is no need to remove such a solvent in making the compositions. Indeed, additional solvent can be added, if this is deemed desirable.

3. Optional Nonionics

The fabric softener compositions optionally contain nonionics as have been disclosed for use in softener compositions. Such nonionics and their usage levels, have been disclosed in U.S. Patent 4,454,049, to MacGilip et al., issued June 12, 1984.

Specific examples of nonionics suitable for the fabric softener compositions herein include glycerol esters (e.g., glycerol monostearate), fatty alcohols (e.g., stearyl alcohol), and alkoxylated fatty alcohols. The nonionic, if used, is typically used at a level in the range of from about 0.5 to about 10% by weight of the composition.

Although generally considered as having fabric softening properties, the nonionics are not considered part of the fabric softening component for the purposes of calculating the amount of fabric softening component in the composition.

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4. Optional Silicone Component

The fabric softening composition optionally contains an aqueous emulsion of a predominantly linear polydialkyl or alkyl aryl siloxane in which the alkyl groups can have from one to five carbon atoms and can be wholly or partially fluorinated. Suitable silicones are polydimethyl siloxanes having a viscosity at 25°C in the range from about 10^{-4} m²s⁻¹ to about 10^{-2} m²s⁻¹ (100 to about 100,000 centistokes), preferably in the range from about 10^{-5} m²s⁻¹ to about 12×10^{-3} m²s⁻¹ (1000 to about 12,000 centistokes).

It has been found that the ionic charge characteristics of the silicone as used in the combination are important in determining both the extent of deposition and the evenness of distribution of the silicone and hence the properties of a fabric treated therewith.

Silicones having cationic character show an enhanced tendency to deposit. Silicones found to be of value in providing fabric feel benefits have a predominantly linear character and are preferably polydialkyl siloxanes in which the alkyl group is most commonly methyl. Such silicone polymers are frequently manufactured commercially by emulsion polymerization using a strong acid or strong alkali catalyst in the presence of a nonionic or mixed nonionic-anionic emulsifier system.

The optional silicone component also embraces a silicone of cationic character which is defined as being one of

(a) a predominantly linear di C₁—C₈ alkyl or C₁-alkyl, aryl siloxane, prepared by emulsion polymerization using a cationic surfactant as emulsifier;

(b) an alpha-omega-di quaternized di C₁—C₈ alkyl or C₁—C₈ alkyl, aryl siloxane polymer or

(c) an amino-functional di C₁—C₈ alkyl or alkyl aryl siloxane polymer in which the amino group may be substituted and may be quaternized and in which the degree of substitution (d.s.) lies in the range 0.0001 to 0.1, preferably 0.01 to 0.073; provided that the viscosity at 25°C of the silicone is from about 10^{-4} m²s⁻¹ to about 10^{-1} m²s⁻¹ (100 to about 100,000 cs.)

The fabric softening compositions herein can contain up to about 10%, preferably from about 0.1% to about 5%, of the silicone component.

5. Other Optional Ingredients

In order to further improve the stability of the fabric softener compositions herein, and further adjust their viscosities, these compositions can contain relatively small amounts of electrolytes, such as NaCl, KBr, LiCl, MgCl₂ or CaCl₂.

The fabric softener compositions can also optionally contain other ingredients known to be suitable for use in textile softeners. Such adjuvants include perfumes, preservatives, germicides, colorants, dyes, fungicides, stabilizers, brighteners and opacifiers. These adjuvants, if used, are normally added at their conventional levels. However, in the case of composition ingredients utilized for a fabric treatment effect, e.g., perfumes, these materials can be added at higher than normal levels, corresponding to the degree of concentration of the product.

The balance of the fabric softener compositions of the present invention is water.

D. Specific Embodiments of Fabric Softener Compositions According to the Present Invention

Embodiment I

A fabric softener base composition is prepared from the following ingredients:

	Ingredient	Wt. %
	Ditallow dimethyl ammonium chloride	4.33
	1-Methyl-1-tallowamidoethyl-2-tallowimidazolium methylsulfate (Varisoft 475)	1.0
	Ethanol	0.7
	Isopropanol	0.1
	Perfume	0.42
	Dye	0.1
	Minors*	up to 0.1
	Water	Balance

* preservative, NaCl, NaOH, H₂SO₄, antioxidant solution.

To this base composition is added 1% by weight of the polyester of Examples 1, 2, 3 or 4.

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Embodiments II—IV

Regular strength and concentrated fabric softener base compositions are prepared from the following ingredients:

Ingredient	Wt. %			
	I	II	III	IV
Ditallow dimethyl ammonium chloride	3.65	7.7	2.23	7.0
1-Tallowamidoethyl-2-tallowimidazoline	3.65	14.3	4.33	3.0
Tallow trimethyl ammonium chloride	0.5	0.5	—	—
Polydimethyl siloxane (viscosity 5000 centistokes) $5 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m}^2 \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$	0.2	0.6	1.33	4.0
Perfume	0.25	0.45	0.25	0.45
Minors*	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13
HCl	—	to pH 4	—	—
Water	—	Balance	—	—

*CaCl₂, dye, bactericide

To regular strength base compositions I and III are added 0.5% by weight of the polyester of Examples 1, 2, 3 or 4. To concentrated base compositions II and IV are added 2% by weight of the polyester of Examples 1, 2, 3 or 4.

Embodiment V

A concentrated fabric softener base composition is prepared from the following ingredients:

Ingredient	Wt. %
Dihydrogenated tallow dimethyl ammonium chloride	13
1-Methyl-1-tallowamidoethyl-2-tallowimidazolinium methylsulfate (I.V. 42)	3
Polar Brilliant Blue dye	80 ppm
CaCl ₂	0.265
Perfume	0.75
Ethanol	0.92
Isopropanol	1.36
Water	Balance

To this concentrated base composition is added 3% by weight of the polyester of Examples 1, 2, 3 or 4.

DRYER-ADDED FABRIC CONDITIONING ARTICLES

A. Fabric Conditioning Component

The compounds of the present invention are further useful to provide soil release properties in a fabric conditioning component associated with dispensing means for release thereof in a dryer at operating

temperatures. The term "fabric conditioning component" is defined as a mixture of the compounds of the present invention and a fabric softening agent defined hereafter. The compounds of the present invention can comprise from 1 to 70% of the fabric conditioning component. Preferably, the compounds of the present invention comprise from 10 to 70%, and most preferably from 25 to 50% by weight of the fabric conditioning component.

B. Fabric Softening Agent

The term "fabric softening agent" as used herein includes cationic and nonionic fabric softeners used alone and also in combination with each other. The preferred fabric softening agent of the present invention is a mixture of cationic and nonionic fabric softeners.

Examples of fabric softening agents are those described in U.S. Patent 4,103,047, to Zaki et al., issued July 25, 1978; U.S. Patent 4,237,155, to Kardouche, issued December 2, 1980; U.S. Patent 3,686,025 to Morton, issued August 22, 1972; U.S. Patent 3,849,435 to Diery et al., issued November 19, 1974; and U.S. Patent 4,037,996, to Bedenk, issued February 14, 1978. Particularly preferred cationic fabric softeners of this type include quaternary ammonium salts such as dialkyl dimethylammonium chlorides, methylsulfates and ethylsulfates wherein the alkyl groups can be the same or different and contain from about 14 to about 22 carbon atoms. Examples of such preferred materials include ditallowalkyldimethylammonium methylsulfate, distearyltrimethylammonium methylsulfate, dipalmitoyldimethylammonium methylsulfate and dibehenyltrimethylammonium methylsulfate. Also, particularly preferred is the carboxylic acid salt of a tertiary alkylamine disclosed in said Kardouche patent. Examples include stearyltrimethylammonium stearate, distearyltrimethylammonium myristate, stearyltrimethylammonium palmitate, distearyltrimethylammonium palmitate, and distearyltrimethylammonium laurate. These carboxylic salts can be made *in situ* by mixing the corresponding amine and carboxylic acid in the molten fabric conditioning component.

Examples of nonionic fabric softeners are the sorbitan esters, described hereafter and C_{12} — C_{28} fatty alcohols and fatty amines as described hereafter.

A preferred article includes a fabric conditioning component which comprises 10 to 70% of the oil release compounds of the present invention, and 30 to 90% of a fabric softening agent, the fabric softening agent being selected from cationic and nonionic fabric softeners, and mixtures thereof. Preferably, the fabric softening agent comprises a mixture of 5 to 80% of a cationic fabric softener and 10 to 85% of a nonionic fabric softener, by weight of the fabric conditioning component. The selection of the agents is such that the resulting fabric conditioning component has a melting point above 38°C and is flowable at dryer operating temperatures.

A preferred fabric softening agent comprises a mixture of C_{10} — C_{28} alkyl sorbitan esters and mixtures thereof, a quaternary ammonium salt and a tertiary alkylamine. The quaternary ammonium salt is preferably present at a level of from about 5 to about 25%, more preferably present at a level of from about 7 to about 20% of the fabric conditioning component. The sorbitan ester is preferably present at a level of from about 10 to about 50%, more preferably from about 20 to about 40%, by weight of the total fabric conditioning component. The tertiary alkylamine is present at a level of from about 5% to about 25%, more preferably from 7% to about 20% by weight of the fabric conditioning component. The preferred sorbitan ester comprises a member selected from the group consisting of C_{10} — C_{28} alkyl sorbitan monoesters and C_{10} — C_{28} alkyl sorbitan di-esters, and ethoxylates of the esters wherein one or more of the unesterified hydroxyl groups in the esters contain from 1 to about 6 oxyethylene units, and mixtures thereof. The quaternary ammonium salt is preferably in the methylsulfate form. The preferred tertiary alkylamine is selected from the group consisting of alkyltrimethylamine and dialkylmethylamine and mixtures thereof, wherein the alkyl groups can be the same or different and contain from about 14 to about 22 carbon atoms.

Another preferred fabric softening agent comprises a carboxylic acid salt of a tertiary alkylamine, in combination with a fatty alcohol and a quaternary ammonium salt. The carboxylic acid salt of a tertiary amine is used in the fabric conditioning component preferably at a level of from about 5 to about 50%, and more preferably, from about 15 to about 35%, by weight of the fabric conditioning component. The quaternary ammonium salt is used preferably at a level of from about 5 to about 25%, and more preferably, from about 7 to about 20%, by weight of the total fabric conditioning component. The fatty alcohol can be used preferably at a level of from about 10 to about 25%, and more preferably from about 10 to about 20%, by weight of the fabric conditioning component. The preferred quaternary ammonium salt is selected from the group consisting of dialkyl dimethylammonium salts wherein the alkyl groups can be the same or different and contain from about 14 to about 22 carbon atoms and wherein the counteranion is selected from the group consisting of chloride, methylsulfate and ethylsulfate, preferably methylsulfate. The preferred carboxylic acid salt of a tertiary alkylamine is selected from the group consisting of fatty acid salts of alkyltrimethylamines wherein the alkyl group contains from about 14 to about 22 carbon atoms. The preferred fatty alcohol contains from about 14 to about 22 carbons.

C. Optional Ingredients

Well known optional components can be included in the fabric conditioning component and are disclosed in U.S. Patent 4,103,047 to Zaki et al., issued July 25, 1978, for "Fabric Treatment Compositions".

D. Dispensing Means

The fabric conditioning component can be employed by simply adding a measured amount into the dryer, e.g., as liquid dispersion. However, in a preferred embodiment, the fabric conditioners are provided as an article in combination with a dispensing means such as a flexible substrate which effectively releases the component in an automatic clothes dryer. Such dispensing means can be designed for single usage or for multiple uses.

One such article comprises a sponge material releasably enclosing enough fabric conditioning component to effectively impart fabric soil release and softness benefits during several cycles of clothes. This multi-use article can be made by filling a hollow sponge with about 20 grams of the fabric conditioning component.

Other devices and articles suitable for dispensing the fabric conditioning composition into automatic dryers include those described in U.S. Patent 4,103,047 to Zaki et al., issued July 25, 1978; U.S. Patent 3,736,668 to Dillarstone, issued June 5, 1973; U.S. Patent 3,701,202 to Compa et al., issued October 31, 1972; U.S. Patent 3,634,947 to Furgal, issued January 18, 1972; U.S. Patent 3,633,538 to Hoefflin, issued January 11, 1972; and U.S. Patent 3,435,537 to Rumsey, issued April 1, 1969.

A highly preferred article herein comprises the fabric conditioning component releasably affixed to a flexible substrate in a sheet configuration. Highly preferred paper, woven or nonwoven "absorbent" substrates useful herein are fully disclosed in U.S. Patent 3,686,025, to Morton, issued August 22, 1972. It is known that most substances are able to absorb a liquid substance to some degree; however, the term "absorbent" as used herein, is intended to mean a substance with an absorbent capacity (i.e., a parameter representing a substrate's ability to take up and retain a liquid) from 4 to about 12, preferably about 5 to about 7, times its weight of water.

Determination of absorbent capacity values is made by using the capacity testing procedures described in U.S. Federal Specifications UU-T-595b, modified as follows:

1. tap water is used instead of distilled water;
2. the specimen is immersed for 30 seconds instead of 3 minutes;
3. draining time is 15 seconds instead of 1 minute; and
4. the specimen is immediately weighed on a torsion balance having a pan with turned-up edges.

Absorbent capacity values are then calculated in accordance with the formula given in said Specification. Based on this test, one-ply, dense bleached paper (e.g., kraft or bond having a basis weight of about 14.5 kg (32 pounds) per 278 m² (3,000 square feet) has an absorbent capacity of 3.5 to 4, commercially available household one-ply toweling paper has a value of 5 to 6; and commercially available two-ply household toweling paper has a value of 7 to about 9.5.

Using a substrate with an absorbent capacity of less than 4 tends to cause too rapid release of the fabric conditioning component from the substrate resulting in several disadvantages, one of which is uneven conditioning of the fabrics. Using a substrate with an absorbent capacity over 12 is undesirable, inasmuch as too little of the fabric conditioning component is released to condition the fabrics in optimal fashion during a normal drying cycle.

Such a substrate comprises a nonwoven cloth having an absorbent capacity of preferably from about 5 to about 7 and wherein the weight ratio of fabric conditioning component to substrate on a dry weight basis ranges from about 5:1 to about 1:1.

Nonwoven cloth substrate preferably comprises cellululosic fibers having a length of from 0.48 cm to 5 cm (3/16 inch to 2 inches) and a denier of from 1.5 to 5 and the substrate is adhesively bonded together with a binder resin.

The flexible substrate preferably has openings sufficient in size and number to reduce restriction by said article of the flow of air through an automatic laundry dryer. The better openings comprise a plurality of rectilinear slits extended along one dimension of the substrate.

E. Usage

The method for imparting the above-described fabric conditioning component to provide soil release, softening and antistatic effects to fabrics in an automatic laundry dryer comprises: commingling pieces of damp fabrics by tumbling the fabrics under heat in an automatic clothes dryer with an effective amount of the fabric conditioning component, the component having a melting point greater than 38°C and being flowable at dryer operating temperature, the component comprising from 1 to 70% of the soil release compounds of the present invention, and 30 to 99% of a fabric softening agent selected from the above-defined cationic and nonionic fabric softeners and mixtures thereof.

The method herein is carried out in the following manner: damp fabrics, usually containing from about 1 to about 1.5 times their weight of water, are placed in the drum of an automatic clothes dryer. In practice, such damp fabrics are commonly obtained by laundering, rinsing and spin-drying the fabrics in a standard washing machine. The fabric conditioning component can simply be spread uniformly over all fabric surfaces, for example, by sprinkling the component onto the fabrics from a shaker device. Alternatively, the component can be sprayed or otherwise coated on the dryer drum, itself. The dryer is then operated in standard fashion to dry the fabrics, usually at a temperature from about 50°C to about 80°C for a period from about 10 minutes to about 60 minutes, depending on the fabric load and type. On removal from the dryer, the dried fabrics have been treated for soil release benefits and are softened. Moreover, the fabrics

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instantaneously sorb a minute quantity of water which increases the electrical conductivity of the fabric surfaces, thereby quickly and effectively dissipating static charge.

In a preferred mode the present process is carried out by fashioning an article comprising the substrate-like dispensing means of the type hereinabove described in releasable combination with a fabric conditioning component. This article is simply added to a clothes dryer together with the damp fabrics to be treated. The heat and tumbling action of the revolving dryer drum evenly distributes the fabric conditioning component over all fabric surfaces, and dries the fabrics.

F. Specific Embodiments of Dryer-Added Fabric Conditioning Articles

The fabric conditioning component of the articles is formulated from the following ingredients.

Ingredient	Wt. %	
Soil Release Compound ^a	37.5	67.0
Fabric Softening Agents		
DTDMAMS ^b	11.25	—
DTMA ^c	11.25	—
SMS ^d	22.5	33.0
C ₁₆ —C ₁₈ Fatty Alcohol	12.5	—
Clay ^e	5.0	—

^a Polyester of Examples 1, 2, 3 or 4

^b Ditalowdimethylammonium methyl sulfate

^c Ditalowmethyl amine

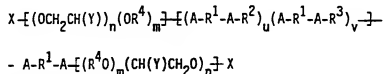
^d Sorbitan monostearate

^e Bentolite L sold by Southern Clay Products

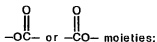
The ingredients in Embodiments A and B are admixed and liquified at 70°C. Each nonwoven substrate, comprised of 70% 3-denier, 1.6 mm to 1.4 cm long rayon fibers with 30% polyvinyl acetate binder, is cut into a 22 cm by 28 cm sheet (9" by 11" sheet). Slightly more than target coating weight is distributed on a heating plate and the nonwoven cloth is placed over it. A small paint roller is used to impregnate the mixture into the interstices of the substrate. The article is removed from the hot plate and allowed to cool to room temperature whereby the mixture solidifies. Following solidification of the fabric conditioning component, the cloth is slit with a knife. (Conveniently, the cloth is provided with 3 to 9 rectilinear slits extending along one dimension of the substrate, the slits being in substantially parallel relationship and extending to within about 28.4 mm (1") from at least one edge of said dimension of the substrate). The width of an individual slit is about 5 mm (0.2").

Claims

1. A capped, substituted-ethylene terephthalate ester compound having oligomeric or polymeric backbone incorporating particular polyoxyalkylated moieties, said compound having the formula



wherein the A moieties are selected from



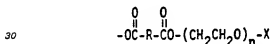
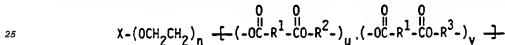
the R¹ moieties are selected from 1,4-phenylene moieties and combinations thereof with from 0 to 50% of other arylene moieties selected from 1,3-phenylene, 1,2-phenylene, 1,8-naphthylene, 1,4-naphthylene, 2,2'-biphenylene, 4,4'-biphenylene, arylene moieties having at least one sulfonated or carboxylated

substituent, and combinations of said other arylene moieties; the R² moieties are selected from (a) 1,2-propylene, 1,2-butylene, 3-methoxy-1,2-propylene and combinations thereof, and (b) combinations of the foregoing R² moieties with from 0 to 20% of other compatible R² moieties selected from linear C₃—C₆ alkylene moieties, 1,2- or 1,4-cycloalkylene moieties, polyoxyalkylated 1,2-hydroxyalkylene moieties, —CH₂CH₂OCH₂CH₂— moieties and combinations thereof; the R³ moieties are selected from (a) moieties —(CH₂CH₂O)_q—CH₂CH₂— wherein q is at least 9, and (b) combinations of the foregoing R³ moieties with from 0 to 50% of other compatible R³ moieties selected from oxypropylene, oxybutylene, polyoxypropylene, polyoxybutylene, polyoxyalkylated hydroxyalkylene oxide and combinations thereof; each R⁴ is C₃—C₄ alkylene, or the moiety —R⁵—A—R⁵—, wherein R⁵ is a C₁—C₁₂ alkylene, alkenylene, arylene or alkarylene moiety; the Y substituents of each moiety —(R⁴O)_m—(CH(Y)CH₂O)_n— are H, the other moiety —CH₂(OCH₂CH₂)_{1/2}O—X or a mixture of said other moiety and H; each X is C₁—C₄ alkyl, m and n are numbers such that the moiety —(CH(Y)CH₂O)— comprises at least 50% by weight of the moiety —(R⁴O)_m(CH(Y)CH₂O)_n—, provided that when R⁴ is the moiety —R⁵—A—R⁵—, m is 1; each n is at least 6; p is 0 or at least 1; the average value of u is from 2 to 50; the average value of v is from 1 to 20; the average value of u + v is from 3 to 70.

2. A compound according to Claim 1, wherein each R¹ is a 1,4-phenylene moiety; said R² groups comprise from 20% to 100% 1,2-propylene moieties and all other R² groups are selected from linear C₃—C₆ alkylene moieties; and all R³ groups are —(CH₂CH₂O)_q—CH₂CH₂— moieties.

3. A compound according to either of Claims 1 or 2 wherein q is from 12 to 90, said Y groups are all H, m is 0 and each n is from 12 to 113.

4. A capped 1,2-propylene terephthalate ester compound having oligomeric or polymeric backbone, incorporating particular polyoxyethylene moieties, said compound characterized in that it has the formula:



wherein each R¹ is a 1,4-phenylene moiety; the R² groups are 1,2-propylene moieties; the R³ groups are the polyoxyethylene moiety —(CH₂H₂O)_q—CH₂CH₂—; each X is ethyl or preferably methyl; each n is from 12 to 45; q is from 12 to 90; the average value of u is from 5 to 20; the average value of v is from 1 to 10; the average value of u + v is from 6 to 30; the ratio u to v is from 1 to 6.

5. A detergent composition characterized in that it comprises:

- from 5 to 75% by weight of a nonionic detergent surfactant;
- from 0 to 15% by weight synthetic anionic detergent surfactants; and
- a soil release component which comprises from 0.01 to 10% by weight of a compound according to any of Claims 1—4.

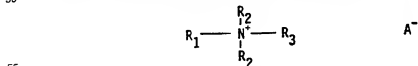
6. A composition according to Claim 5 which is in liquid form, and, optionally, which additionally comprises an optical brightener.

7. An aqueous fabric softener composition characterized in that it comprises:

- from 2 to 50% by weight of a fabric softener component; and
- a soil release component which comprises from 0.01 to 10% by weight of a compound according to any of Claims 1—4.

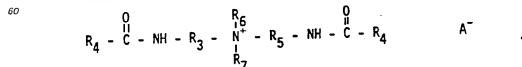
8. A composition according to Claim 7 which is characterized in that component (a) comprises a quaternary ammonium salt selected from:

- mononitrogen quaternary ammonium salts having the formula:



wherein R₁ is an aliphatic C₁₂—C₂₂ hydrocarbon group; R₂ is a C₁—C₄ saturated alkyl or hydroxyalkyl group; R₃ is selected from R₁ and R₂; and A is an anion;

- diamide quaternary ammonium salts having the formula:



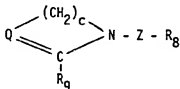
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wherein R_4 is an aliphatic $C_{12}-C_{22}$ hydrocarbon group; R_5 is a divalent alkylene group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms; R_6 is a C_1-C_4 saturated alkyl or hydroxyalkyl group; R_7 is R_6 or the moiety $(C_6H_{22}O)_bH$, wherein a is 2 or 3 and b is from 1 to 5; and A is an anion;

- (3) quaternary imidazolium salts selected from 1-methyl-1-tallowamidoethyl-2-tallowimidazolium methylsulfate, 1-methyl-1-(hydrogenated tallowamidoethyl)-methylsulfate, 1-ethylene-bis(2-tallow-1-methyl-imidazolium methylsulfate); and 1-methyl-2-tallow-3[tallowamidoethyl(tallowamino)ethylene]-imidazolium methylsulfate;

(4) and mixtures thereof.

9. A composition according to Claim 8 which is characterized in that component (a) comprises a mixture of one or more of the defined quaternary ammonium salts together with a cyclic amine having the formula:



- wherein c is 2 or 3; R_8 and R_9 are, independently, a C_6-C_{30} alkyl or alkenyl group, Q is CH or N , Z is R_{10} or



- wherein T is 0 or NR_{11} , R_{11} is H or C_1-C_4 alkyl; and R_{10} is a divalent C_1-C_3 alkylene or $(C_2H_4O)_d$ group; wherein d is a number of from 1 to 8.

10. A composition according to any of Claims 1—9, which is characterized in that said fabric softener component comprises: (A) from 2 to 15% by weight of mononitrogen quaternary ammonium salts; (B) from 0 to 14% by weight of said diamide quaternary ammonium salts; (C) from 2 to 13% by weight of said quaternary imidazolium salts and wherein said fabric softener component comprises from 3 to 10% by weight of the composition, or, optionally, comprises from 15 to 25% by weight of the composition.

11. An article which provides fabric soil release and softening benefits when used within an automatic clothes dryer, said article being characterized in that it comprises:

- (a) a fabric conditioning component having a melting point above $38^\circ C$ and being flowable at dryer operating temperatures and being characterized in that it comprises:

(i) from 1 to 70% of a compound according to any of Claims 1—4;

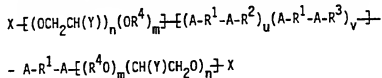
(ii) from 30 to 99% of a fabric softening agent selected from the group consisting of cationic fabric softener compounds, nonionic fabric softener compounds and mixtures thereof;

- (b) said fabric conditioning component being associated with a dispensing means which provides for release thereof within an automatic clothes dryer at dryer operating temperatures.

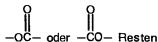
12. An article according to Claim 10 which is further characterized in that (i) said dispensing means comprises a flexible substrate in sheet configuration having said fabric conditioning component releasably affixed thereto to provide a weight ratio of fabric conditioning component to dry substrate of from 10:1 to 0.5:1; (ii) said compound is present at a level of from 10 to 70% by weight of the fabric conditioning component; and (iii) said fabric softening agent comprises a mixture of from 5 to 80% of a cationic fabric softener and from 10 to 85% of a nonionic fabric softener, by weight of said fabric conditioning component.

Patentansprüche

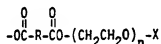
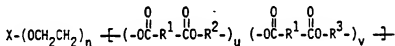
1. Verkapselte, substituierte Ethylenterephthalatester Verbindung mit einem oligomeren oder polymeren Rückgrat, enthaltend einzelne polyoxyalkylierte Reste, welche Verbindung die Formel



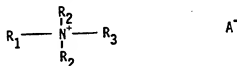
- besitzt, worin die A-Reste unter



- ausgewählt sind; die R¹-Reste aus 1,4-Phenylenresten und Kombinationen hievon mit 0 bis 50% an anderen Arylenresten, ausgewählt unter 1,3-Phenyl-, 1,2-Phenyl-, 1,8-Naphthyl-, 1,4-Naphthyl-, 2,2'-Biphenyl-, 4,4'-Biphenyl-, Arylen-Resten mit mindestens einem sulfonierten oder carboxylierten Substituenten, und Kombinationen aus den genannten anderen Arylenresten, ausgewählt sind; die R²-
- 15 Reste unter (a) 1,2-Propylen, 1,2-Butylen, 3-Methoxy-1,2-propylen und Kombinationen hievon, und (b) Kombinationen der vorstehenden R²-Reste mit 0 bis 20% an anderen verträglichen R²-Resten, ausgewählt unter linearen C₂-C₆-Alkylenresten, 1,2- oder 1,4-Cycloalkylenresten, polyoxyalkylierten 1,2-Hydroxyalkylenresten, —CH₂CH₂OCH₂CH₂-Resten und Kombinationen hievon, ausgewählt sind; die R³-
- 20 Reste unter (a) Resten —(CH₂CH₂O)_q—CH₂CH₂—, worin q mindestens 9 beträgt, und (b) Kombinationen der vorstehenden R³-Reste mit 0 bis 50% an anderen verträglichen R³-Resten, ausgewählt unter Oxypropylen, Oxybutylen, Polyoxypropylen, Polyoxybutylen, polyoxyalkyliertem Hydroxyalkylenoxid und Kombinationen hievon, ausgewählt sind; jedes R⁴ für C₃-C₄-Alkylen oder den Rest —R²—A—R²— steht, worin R⁵ ein C₁-C₁₂-Alkylen-, Alkenylen-, -Arylen- oder -Alkarylenrest ist; die Y-Substituenten von jedem Rest —R⁴O—, —(CH(Y)CH₂O)—, —H, der Etherrest —CH₂(OCH₂CH₂)₂—O—X oder ein Gemisch aus dem
- 25 genannten Etherrest und H sind; jedes X C₁-C₄-Alkyl bedeutet; m und n solche Zahlen sind, daß der Rest —(CH(Y)CH₂O)— mindestens 50 Gew.-% des Restes —(R⁵O)_m(CH(Y)CH₂O)_n— umfaßt, mit der Maßgabe, daß, wenn R⁴ den Rest —R²—A—R²— darstellt, m den Wert 1 besitzt; jedes n mindestens 6 beträgt; p 0 oder mindestens 1 ist; der Durchschnittswert von u + v von 2 bis 50 beträgt; der Durchschnittswert von v von 1 bis 20 beträgt; der Durchschnittswert von u + v von 3 bis 70 beträgt.
- 30 2. Verbindung nach Anspruch 1, worin jedes R¹ ein 1,4-Phenylenrest ist; die genannten R²-Gruppen 20% bis 100% 1,2-Propylenreste umfassen, und alle anderen R²-Gruppen aus linearen C₂-C₆-Alkylenresten ausgewählt sind; und alle R³-Gruppen —(CH₂CH₂O)_q—CH₂CH₂—-Reste bedeuten.
3. Verbindung nach einem der Ansprüche 1 oder 2, worin q von 12 bis 113 beträgt, die genannten Y-Gruppen alle H darstellen, m den Wert 0 besitzt, und jedes n von 12 bis 113 beträgt.
- 35 4. Verkapselte 1,2-Propylenterephthalatesterverbindung mit oligomeren oder polymerem Rückgerat, enthaltend einzelne Polyoxyethylenreste, welche Verbindung dadurch gekennzeichnet ist, daß sie die Formel:



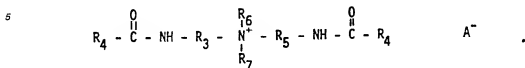
- 40 besitzt, worin jedes R¹ einen 1,4-Phenylenrest darstellt; die R²-Gruppen 1,2-Propylenrest R²-Gruppen 1,2-Propylenreste sind; die R³-Gruppen den Polyoxyethylenrest —(CH₂H₂O)_q—CH₂CH₂— darstellen, jedes X Ethyl oder vorzugsweise Methyl bedeutet; jedes n von 12 bis 45 beträgt; q von 12 bis 90 beträgt; der Durchschnittswert von u + v von 5 bis 20 beträgt, der Durchschnittswert von v von 1 bis 10 beträgt; der Durchschnittswert von u + v von 6 bis 30 beträgt; das Verhältnis von u zu v von 1 bis 6 beträgt.
- 45 5. Detergensenzusammensetzung, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß sie:
- a) von 5 bis 75 Gew.-% an einem nichtionischen Detergens-grenzflächenaktiven Mittel;
 - b) von 0 bis 15 Gew.-% an synthetischen, anionischen Detergens-grenzflächenaktiven Mitteln; und
 - c) eine Schmutzlösekomponente umfaßt, welche von 0,01 bis 10 Gew.-% einer Verbindung nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 4 enthält.
- 50 6. Zusammensetzung nach Anspruch 5, welche in flüssiger Form vorliegt und wahlweise zusätzlich einen optischen Aufheller enthält.
7. Wäßrige Gewebeweichmacherzusammensetzung, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß sie:
- a) von 2 bis 50 Gew.-% an einer Gewebeweichmacherkomponente; und
 - b) eine Schmutzlösekomponente umfaßt, welche von 0,01 bis 10 Gew.-% einer Verbindung nach
- 55 einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 4 enthält.
8. Zusammensetzung nach Anspruch 7, welche dadurch gekennzeichnet ist, daß die Komponente (a) ein quaternäres Ammoniumsalz enthält, ausgewählt unter:
- (1) Monostickstoff-quaternären Ammoniumsalzen mit der Formel:



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worin R_1 eine aliphatische C_{12} – C_{22} -Kohlenwasserstoffgruppe darstellt; R_2 eine gesättigte C_1 – C_4 -Alkyl- oder -Hydroxyalkylgruppe bedeutet; R_3 unter R_1 und R_2 ausgewählt ist; und A ein Anion darstellt;

(2) Diamid-quaternären Ammoniumsalzen mit der Formel:

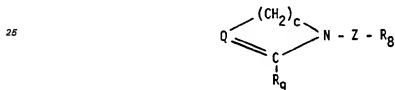


worin R_4 eine aliphatische C_{12} – C_{22} -Kohlenwasserstoffgruppe darstellt; R_5 eine zweiwertige Alkylengruppe mit 1 bis 3 Kohlenstoffatomen ist; R_6 eine gesättigte C_1 – C_4 -Alkyl- oder -Hydroxyalkylgruppe bedeutet; R_7 für R_6 oder den Rest $(C_2H_{2a}O)_bH$ steht, worin a den Wert 2 oder 3 besitzt, und b von 1 bis 5 beträgt; und A ein Anion ist;

(3) quaternären Imidazoliniumsalzen, ausgewählt unter 1-Methyl-1-talgamidoethyl-2-talgimidazoliniummethylsulfat, 1-Methyl-1-(hydrierter Talg-amidoethyl)-methylsulfat, 1-Ethyl-bis(2-talg-1-methyl-imidazoliniummethylsulfat); und 1-Methyl-2-talg-3[talgamidoethyltagamino]ethylen]-imidazoliniummethylsulfat;

(4) und Gemischen hiervon.

9. Zusammensetzung nach Anspruch 8, welche dadurch gekennzeichnet ist, daß die Komponente (a) ein Gemisch aus einem oder mehreren der definierten quaternären Ammoniumsalze gemeinsam mit einem cyclischen Amin der Formel:



enthält, worin c den Wert 2 oder 3 besitzt; R_8 und R_9 voneinander unabhängig eine C_8 – C_{30} -Alkyl- oder -Alkenylgruppe darstellt, Q für CH oder N steht, Z R_{10} oder



worin T O oder NR_{11} ist, R_{11} H oder C_1 – C_4 -Alkyl darstellt; und R_{10} eine zweiwertige C_1 – C_3 -Alkylen- oder $(C_2H_4O)_d$ -Gruppe bedeutet; worin d eine Zahl von 1 bis 8 ist.

10. Zusammensetzung nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 9, welche dadurch gekennzeichnet ist, daß die genannte Gewebeweichmacherkomponente: (A) von 2 bis 15 Gew.-% an Monostickstoff-quaternären Ammoniumsalzen; (B) von 0 bis 14 Gew.-% der genannten Diamid-quaternären Ammoniumsalze; (C) von 2 bis 13 Gew.-% der genannten quaternären Imidazoliniumsalze enthält, und worin die genannte Gewebeweichmacherkomponente von 3 bis 10 Gew.-% der Zusammensetzung, oder wahlweise von 15 bis 25 Gew.-% der Zusammensetzung umfaßt.

11. Produkt, welches Gewebeschmutzlöse- und -weichmachungsvorteile gewährleistet, wenn es in einem automatischen Wäschetrockner verwendet wird, welches Produkt dadurch gekennzeichnet ist, daß es:

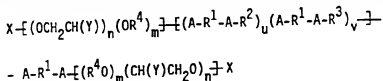
(a) eine gewebekonditionierende Komponente umfaßt, welche einen Schmelzpunkt über $38^\circ C$ besitzt und bei Trocknerbetriebsbedingungen fließfähig ist und dadurch gekennzeichnet ist, daß sie sich aus: (i) 1 bis 70% einer Verbindung nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 4; (ii) 30 bis 99% eines Gewebeweichmachungsmittels, ausgewählt von der Gruppe bestehend aus kationischen Gewebeweichmacherverbindungen, nichtionischen Gewebeweichmacherverbindungen und Gemischen hiervon; zusammensetzt;

(b) welche gewebekonditionierende Komponente mit einem Verteilungsmittel verbunden ist, welches die Freisetzung hiervon in einem automatischen Wäschetrockner bei Trocknerbetriebstemperaturen ermöglicht.

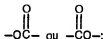
12. Produkt nach Anspruch 10, welches ferner dadurch gekennzeichnet ist, daß (i) das genannte Verteilungsmittel ein flexibles Substrat mit Blattstruktur umfaßt, welches die genannte gewebekonditionierende Komponente darauf freisetzbar gebunden enthält, um ein Gewichtsverhältnis von gewebekonditionierender Komponente zum trockenen Substrat von 10:1 bis 0,5:1 zu schaffen; (ii) die genannte Verbindung in einer Menge von 10 bis 70 Gew.-% der gewebekonditionierenden Komponente vorhanden ist; und (iii) das genannte Gewebeweichmachungsmittel ein Gemisch aus 5 bis 80% von einem kationischen Gewebeweichmacher und 10 bis 85% von einem nichtionischen Gewebeweichmacher, bezogen auf das Gewicht der genannten gewebekonditionierenden Komponente, umfaßt.

Revendications

1. Composé à base de de téréphthalate d'éthylène substitué, coiffé, comportant un squelette oligomère ou polymère comprenant des fragments polyoxyalkylés particuliers, ledit composé possédant la formule



dans laquelle les fragments A sont choisis parmi les radicaux



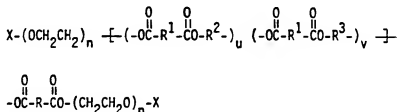
les fragments R¹ sont choisis parmi le fragment 1,4-phénylène et des combinaisons de celui-ci avec de 0 à 50% d'autres radicaux arylène choisis parmi le 1,3-phénylène, le 1,2-phénylène, le 1,8-naphtylène, le 1,4-naphtylène, le 2,2'-biphénylène, le 4,4'-biphénylène, des radicaux arylène comportant au moins un substituant sulfoné ou carboxylé, et des combinaisons desdits autres radicaux arylène; les fragments R² sont choisis parmi (a) le 1,2-propylène, le 1,2-butylène, le 3-méthoxy-1,2-propylène et des combinaisons de ceux-ci, et (b) des combinaisons des fragments R² précédents avec de 0 à 20% d'autres fragments R² compatibles, choisis parmi des fragments alkylène en C₂-C₆ linéaires, des fragments 1,2- ou 1,4-cycloalkylène, des fragments 1,2-hydroxyalkylène polyoxyalkylés, des fragments -CH₂CH₂OCH₂CH₂- et des combinaisons de ceux-ci; les fragments R³ sont choisis parmi (a) des groupes -(CH₂CH₂O)_q-CH₂CH₂- dans lesquels q est au moins 9, et (b) des combinaisons des fragments R³ précédents avec de 0 à 50% d'autres fragments R³ compatibles, choisis parmi l'oxypropylène, l'oxybutylène, le polyoxypropylène, le polyoxybutylène, un oxyde d'hydroxyalkylène polyoxyalkylé et des combinaisons de ceux-ci; chaque radical R⁴ est un radical alkylène en C₂-C₆ ou le fragment -R²-A-R²-, R⁴ étant un groupe alkylène en C₁-C₁₂, alcénylène, arylène ou alkarylène; les substituants Y de chaque fragment

-(R⁴O)_m-(CH(Y)CH₂O)_n- sont H, le fragment éther -CH₂(OCH₂CH₂)_p-O-X ou un mélange dudit fragment éther et de H; chaque groupe X est un groupe alkyle en C₁-C₄; m et n sont des nombres tels que le fragment -(CH(Y)CH₂O)- constitue au moins 50% en poids du fragment -(R⁴O)_m(CH(Y)CH₂O)_n-, étant entendu que lorsque R⁴ est le fragment -R²-A-R²-, m est 1; chaque n est au moins 6; p est 0 ou au moins 1; la valeur moyenne de u va de 2 à 50; la valeur moyenne de v va de 1 à 20; la valeur moyenne de u + v va de 3 à 70.

2. Composé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel chaque fragment R¹ est un radical 1,4-phénylène; lesdits groupes R² comprennent de 20 à 100% de fragments 1,2-propylène et tous les autres groupes R² sont choisis parmi des fragments alkylène linéaires en C₂-C₆; et tous les groupes R³ sont des fragments -(CH₂CH₂O)_q-CH₂CH₂-.

3. Composé selon la revendication 1 ou 2, dans lequel q va de 12 à 90, lesdits fragments Y sont tous H, m est 0 et chaque n va de 12 à 113.

4. Composé à base de téréphthalate de 1,2-propylène coiffé, comportant un squelette oligomère ou polymère, comprenant des fragments polyoxyéthylène particuliers, ledit composé étant caractérisé en ce qu'il possède la formule:



dans laquelle chaque fragment R¹ est un fragment 1,4-phénylène; les groupes R² sont des fragments 1,2-propylène; les groupes R³ sont des fragments polyoxyéthylène -(CH₂CH₂O)_q-CH₂CH₂-; chaque radical X est le groupe éthyle ou de préférence méthyle; chaque n va de 12 à 45; q va de 12 à 90; la valeur moyenne de u va de 5 à 20; la valeur moyenne de v va de 1 à 10; la valeur moyenne de u + v va de 6 à 30; le rapport de u à v de 1 à 6.

5. Composition de détergent, caractérisée en ce qu'elle comprend:

a) de 5 à 75% en poids d'un agent tensioactif détergent non ionique;

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b) de 0 à 15% en poids d'agents tensioactifs détergents anioniques de synthèse; et
c) un composant d'élimination des salissures, qui comprend de 0,01 à 10% en poids d'un composé selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 4.

6. Composition selon la revendication 5, qui est sous forme liquide et, éventuellement, qui comprend en outre un azurant optique.

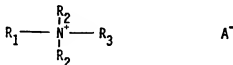
7. Composition aqueuse d'assouplissant pour tissus, caractérisée en ce qu'elle comprend:

a) de 2 à 50% en poids d'un composant assouplissant pour tissus; et

b) un composant d'élimination des salissures, qui comprend de 0,01 à 10% en poids d'un composé selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 4.

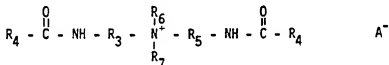
8. Composition selon la revendication 7, caractérisée en ce que le composant (a) comprend un sel d'ammonium quaternaire choisi parmi:

(1) des sels d'ammonium quaternaires mono-azotés de formule:



dans laquelle R_1 est un groupe hydrocarboné (groupe hydrocarboné aliphatique en $C_{12}-C_{22}$; R_2 est un groupe alkyle ou hydroxyalkyle saturé en C_1-C_4 ; R_3 est choisi parmi R_1 et R_2 ; et A est un anion

(2) des sels d'ammonium quaternaire diamide, de formule:

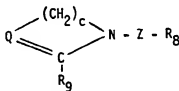


dans laquelle R_4 est un groupe hydrocarboné aliphatique en $C_{12}-C_{22}$; R_6 est un groupe alkylène bivalent ayant de 1 à 3 atomes de carbone; R_7 est un groupe alkyle ou hydroxyalkyle saturé en C_1-C_4 ; R_5 est R_6 ou le fragment $(C_6H_4O)_nH$, n étant 2 ou 3 et b allant de 1 à 5; et A est un anion;

(3) des sels d'imidazolinium quaternaire, choisis parmi le méthylsulfate de 1-méthyl-1-sulf-amidoéthyl-2-sulf-imidazolinium, le méthylsulfate de 1-méthyl-1-(sulf hydrogéné-amidoéthyle), le 1-éthylène-bis-(méthylsulfate de 2-sulf-1-méthyl-imidazolinium); et le méthylsulfate de 1-méthyl-2-sulf-3-[(sulf-amidoéthyl-sulf-amino)éthylène]imidazolinium;

(4) et des mélanges de ceux-ci.

9. Composition selon la revendication 8, caractérisée en ce que le composant (a) comprend un mélange d'un ou plusieurs des sels d'ammonium quaternaire définis, conjointement avec une amine cyclique de formule:



dans laquelle c est 2 ou 3; R_6 et R_9 sont, indépendamment, un groupe alkyle ou alcényle en C_8-C_{30} ; Q est CH ou N ; Z est R_{10} ou



T étant 0 ou NR_{11} , R_{11} étant H ou un groupe alkyle en C_1-C_4 ; et R_{10} étant un groupe alkylène en C_1-C_3 bivalent ou $(C_6H_4O)_n$ bivalent; d'étant un nombre allant de 1 à 8.

10. Composition selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 9, caractérisée en ce que ledit composant assouplissant pour tissus comprend: (A) de 2 à 15% en poids de sels d'ammonium quaternaire mono-azotés; (B) de 0 à 14% en poids desdits sels d'ammonium quaternaire diamide; (C) de 2 à 13% en poids desdits sels d'imidazolinium quaternaire, et dans laquelle ledit composant assouplissant pour tissus constitue de 3 à 10% en poids de la composition, ou, éventuellement, constitue de 15 à 25% en poids de la composition.

11. Article offrant des avantages d'assouplissement de tissus et d'élimination des salissures hors de tissus, lorsqu'il est utilisé dans un sèche-linge automatique, ledit article étant caractérisé en ce qu'il comprend:

(a) un composant de conditionnement pour tissus, ayant un point de fusion supérieur à 38°C et étant

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fluide aux températures de fonctionnement du sèche-linge et étant caractérisé en ce qu'il comprend:

(I) de 1 à 70% d'un composé selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 4;

(II) de 30 à 99% d'un agent assouplissant pour tissus, choisi parmi des composés cationiques assouplissants pour tissus, des composés non ioniques assouplissants pour tissus, et des mélanges de ceux-ci;

(b) ledit composant de conditionnement pour tissus étant associé à un moyen de distribution qui assure la libération de celui-ci dans un sèche-linge automatique, aux températures de fonctionnement du sèche-linge.

12. Article selon la revendication 10, caractérisé en outre en ce que (I) ledit moyen de distribution comprend un support flexible en configuration de feuille, sur lequel est fixé de façon libérable ledit composant de conditionnement pour tissus, pour donner un rapport pondéral du composant de conditionnement pour tissus au support sec allant de 10:1 à 0,5:1 (II) ledit composant est présent en une proportion de 10 à 70% en poids du composant de conditionnement pour tissus; et (III) ledit agent assouplissant pour tissus comprend un mélange de 5 à 80% d'un assouplissant cationique pour tissus et de 10 à 85% d'un assouplissant non ionique pour tissus, en poids par rapport audit composant de conditionnement pour tissus.